United Nations

A/71/595/Add.3

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 December 2016

Original: English

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 134
Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Thematic cluster III: United Nations offices, peacebuilding support offices, integrated offices and commissions

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (thematic cluster III) (A/71/365/Add.3). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses that were received on 2 December 2016.

2. The main report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365) provides an overview of the proposed resource requirements for 2017 for 31 special political missions and related cross-cutting issues, while five addenda cover the specific requirements for thematic clusters I to III and the two larger missions, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) (A/71/365/Add.1-5). The budget proposals of the Secretary-General for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen and the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi (both under cluster I), and the proposed budget for the United Nations Mission in Colombia (cluster III) are presented under separate addenda (A/71/365/Add.6 and A/71/365/Add.7, respectively). The comments and

16-19307 (E) 071216

Please recycle

recommendations of the Advisory Committee of a cross-cutting nature pertaining to all special political missions are contained in the main report of the Committee (A/71/595),[1] while the comments and recommendations of the Committee regarding the budget proposals for thematic clusters I to III, UNAMA and UNAMI are presented in related reports (A/71/595/Add.1-5).

3. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly approved a biennial provision of $1,124,400,000 for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for 2016-2017 (resolution 70/249 A). A summary of the provision for special political missions for the biennium 2016-2017 is provided in annex I to the main report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365).

II. Resource requirements

4. The proposed resources for eight special political missions grouped under cluster III in 2017 amount to $220,100,200, reflecting an increase of $28,628,900 (15 per cent) compared with the appropriation of $191,471,300 for 2016. Taking into account the projected overexpenditure of $1,364,300 at the end of 2016, the resource requirements for the eight missions in 2017 estimated by the Secretary-General amount to $221,464,500 (see A/71/365, tables 4 and 6).

5. Tables 1 and 2 below provide a breakdown, by mission, of the estimated expenditure for 2016 and the projected requirements for 2017, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365/Add.3).

Table 1
Summary of resource requirements by mission
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January to 31 December 2016				*Requirements for 1 January-31 December 2017*			
Mission	*Appropriation* (1)	*Estimated expenditure* (2)	*Variance* (3)=(1)-(2)	*Appropriation 2016* (4)=(1)	*Total requirements* (5)	*Non-recurrent requirements* (6)	*Variance (2017-2016)* (7)=(5)-(4)	*Net requirements for 2017*[a] (8)=(5)-(6)
United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS)[b]	13 330.2	13 055.3	274.9	13 330.2	13 283.3	20.7	(46.9)	13 008.4
United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS)	19 919.9	18 217.3	1 702.6	19 919.9	18 033.3	144.8	(1 886.6)	16 330.7
United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM)	93 486.6	92 711.0	775.6	93 486.6	96 094.5	2 827.3	2 607.9	95 318.9
United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (UNRCCA)	3 022.7	2 913.0	109.7	3 022.7	3 075.1	78.0	52.4	2 965.4

[1] The report includes the comments of the Advisory Committee on the Kuwait Joint Support Office under thematic cluster III missions.

Mission	1 January to 31 December 2016				Requirements for 1 January–31 December 2017			
	Appropriation	Estimated expenditure	Variance	Appropriation 2016	Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	Variance (2017-2016)	Net requirements for 2017[a]
	(1)	(2)	(3)=(1)-(2)	(4)=(1)	(5)	(6)	(7)=(5)-(4)	(8)=(5)-(3)
United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission	4 958.2	4 750.9	207.3	4 958.2	4 385.1	14.4	(573.1)	4 177.8
Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL)	8 466.7	8 421.3	45.4	8 466.7	8 217.5	85.4	(249.2)	8 172.1
United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA)	7 105.5	7 016.8	88.7	7 105.5	6 686.9	30.4	(418.6)	6 598.2
United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL)	41 181.5	45 750.0	(4 568.5)	41 181.5	70 324.5	5 031.7	29 143.0	74 893.0
Total	**191 471.3**	**192 835.6**	**(1 364.3)**	**191 471.3**	**220 100.2**	**8 232.7**	**28 628.9**	**221 464.5**

[a] Net requirements after taking into account the estimated underexpenditure or overexpenditure for 2016.
[b] Reflects combined appropriation for UNOWA and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel.

Table 2
Summary of financial resources by major category of expenditure
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	1 January–31 December 2016				Requirements for 1 January–31 December 2017			
	Appropriation	Estimated expenditure	Variance	Appropriation 2016	Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	Variance (2017-2016)	Net requirements for 2017
	(1)	(2)	(3)=(1)-(2)	(4)=(1)	(5)	(6)	(7)=(5)-(4)	(8)=(5)-(3)
I. Military and police personnel								
1 Military observers	396.6	298.2	98.4	396.6	320.8	–	(75.8)	222.4
2 Military contingent	12 362.4	14 775.7	(2 413.3)	12 362.4	23 077.2	–	10 714.8	25 490.5
3 United Nations police	718.5	758.3	(39.8)	718.5	796.1	–	77.6	835.9
Total, category I	**13 477.5**	**15 832.2**	**(2 354.7)**	**13 477.5**	**24 194.1**	**–**	**10 716.6**	**26 548.8**
II. Civilian personnel								
1 International staff	73 494.0	71 447.6	2 046.4	73 494.0	75 275.6	–	1 781.6	73 229.2
2 National staff	11 030.2	11 147.5	(117.3)	11 030.2	11 816.1	–	785.9	11 933.4
3 United Nations Volunteers	631.7	582.9	48.8	631.7	911.9	–	280.2	863.1
4 General temporary assistance	861.1	324.9	536.2	861.1	1 459.9	–	598.8	923.7
5 Government-provided personnel	421.6	256.2	165.4	421.6	726.7	–	305.1	561.3
Total, category II	**86 438.6**	**83 759.1**	**2 679.5**	**86 438.6**	**90 190.2**	**–**	**3 751.6**	**87 510.7**

	1 January-31 December 2016				Requirements for 1 January-31 December 2017			
Category of expenditure	Appropriation (1)	Estimated expenditure (2)	Variance (3)=(1)-(2)	Appropriation 2016 (4)=(1)	Total requirements (5)	Non-recurrent requirements (6)	Variance (2017-2016) (7)=(5)-(4)	Net requirements for 2017[a] (8)=(5)-(3)
III. Operational costs								
1 Consultants	3 380.0	3 265.6	114.4	3 380.0	2 855.4	–	(524.6)	2 741.0
2 Official travel	7 585.4	7 616.2	(30.8)	7 585.4	7 069.5	–	(515.9)	7 100.3
3 Facilities and infrastructure	27 705.2	29 945.2	(2 240.0)	27 705.2	35 843.7	921.4	8 138.5	38 083.7
4 Ground transportation	5 107.4	5 079.2	28.2	5 107.4	8 915.3	4 851.5	3 807.9	8 887.1
5 Air transportation	19 680.3	19 389.2	291.1	19 680.3	21 542.5	524.0	1 862.2	21 251.4
6 Naval transportation	27.4	27.4	–	27.4	27.4	–	–	27.4
7 Communications	11 238.8	10 848.7	390.1	11 238.8	10 935.5	1 095.7	(303.3)	10 545.4
8 Information technology	4 101.0	5 275.9	(1 174.9)	4 101.0	3 938.1	613.2	(162.9)	5 113.0
9 Medical	4 132.5	3 581.6	550.9	4 132.5	4 928.7	226.9	796.2	4 377.8
10 Other supplies, services and equipment	8 597.2	8 215.3	381.9	8 597.2	9 659.8	–	1 062.6	9 277.9
Total, category III	**91 555.2**	**93 244.3**	**(1 689.1)**	**91 555.2**	**105 715.9**	**8 232.7**	**14 160.7**	**107 405.0**
Total (net of staff assessment)	**191 471.3**	**192 835.6**	**(1 364.3)**	**191 471.3**	**220 100.2**	**8 232.7**	**28 628.9**	**221 464.5**

[a] Net requirements after taking into account the estimated underexpenditure or overexpenditure for 2016.

Budget performance for 2016

6. The estimated expenditures for eight missions grouped in cluster III for 2016 amount to $192,835,600, reflecting an overexpenditure of $1,364,300 (0.7 per cent) compared with the appropriation of $191,471,300 for 2016. The projected overexpenditure reflects the net effect of higher-than-budgeted requirements for one mission (UNSMIL) and lower than budgeted requirements for the other seven missions under cluster III. A summary of significant estimated variances between the 2016 appropriation and projected expenditures for missions continuing into 2017 is provided in table 4 of the Secretary-General's main report (A/71/365).

7. Major contributing factors of the variances in the estimated budget requirements for 2016 include:

(a) UNOWAS: higher actual vacancy rates for national staff and military observers; streamlining of consultancy and travel requirements following the merger of UNOWA and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel (a decrease of $274,900);

(b) UNIOGBIS: lower actual international staff costs for the incumbents of the positions; delayed recruitment for three Government-provided personnel; decreased ground transportation requirements due to in-house maintenance and repairs (a decrease of $1,702,600);

(c) UNSOM: lower communications and freight costs; reduced air transportation and medical equipment requirements, offset in part by higher rental

and maintenance services costs; acquisition of software packages and licences for the installation of physical security equipment for compliance with minimum operating security standards; and maintenance and repair of equipment (a decrease of $775,600);

(d) UNRCCA: higher actual vacancy rates for international staff, offset in part by increase in national staff costs based on applicable salary scales; and lower actual vacancy rates for national staff (a decrease of $109,700);

(e) United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission: reduced number of field assessment missions owing to the use of desktop methodology following the security threats from Boko Haram (a decrease of $207,300);

(f) UNSCOL: lower actual national staff costs for the incumbents of the positions; lower network connectivity costs, offset in part by increased regional travel for the Special Coordinator; and duty assignment temporarily assigned from the Department of Political Affairs to the Political Unit of UNSCOL for surge capacity requirements to meet critical mandated tasks (a decrease of $45,400);

(g) UNOCA: lower actual international and national staff costs for the incumbents of the positions; higher actual vacancy rates for national staff, offset in part by increased air transportation and official travel requirements owing to the intensified good offices and mediation role of the Special Representative and UNOCA (a decrease of $88,700);

(h) UNSMIL: additional requirements for military and civilian personnel and operational resources resulting from the re-establishment of a permanent presence in Libya through a phased return, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 2259 (2015) and 2273 (2016); a commitment authority was authorized by the Advisory Committee on 6 June 2016 to allow the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in the amount up to $4,991,200.

8. The Advisory Committee was provided, upon request, with information on the utilization rate of approved resources for 2016 (see annex I), which shows a significant delay in the budget implementation for most missions in cluster III. At UNSMIL, for example, the actual expenditure in the category of military contingents as of 30 September 2016 amounted to $0.1 million compared with the projected expenditure of $2.4 million as at 31 December 2016. Following the Committee's query, the Secretariat has adjusted the projected expenditure by $2.2 million, from $2.4 million to $0.2 million. Moreover, actual expenditure under facilities and infrastructure amounted to $2.5 million as of 30 September 2016, compared with the projected expenditure of $7.1 million as at 31 December 2016. While the Secretary-General projected an overexpenditure of $1.2 million as at 31 December 2016, the mission will now have an underexpenditure estimated at $2.2 million, and the projected 2016 expenditure for petrol, oil and lubricants under ground transportation will also be reduced by $11,000 (see annex II). The Committee was informed that the main reason for the low rate of utilization of resources at UNSMIL was due to the fact that the budget for 2016 was based on plans to return the mission to Tripoli. Security conditions, however, prevented that move, resulting in actual expenditures being less than anticipated.

Proposed resources for 2017

9. The estimated requirements for the eight missions grouped in cluster III of $220,100,200 for 2017 reflect an increase of $28,628,900 (15 per cent) compared with the appropriation for 2016. The increase reflects the net effect of increased requirements for UNSOM ($2,607,900), UNRCCA ($52,400) and UNSMIL ($29,143,000) and lower requirements for UNOWAS ($46,900), UNIOGBIS ($1,886,600), Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission ($573,100), UNOCA ($418,600) and UNSCOL ($249,200). A summary of significant variances between approved resources for 2016 and proposed resources for 2017 for continuing missions under this cluster is contained in table 6 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365).

10. The breakdown of variances in the estimated budget requirements for 2017 by mission, and the main contributing factors to the variances, are as follows:

(a) UNSOM: the proposed establishment of 18 civilian positions (2 P-4, 2 P-3, 4 Field Service (FS) and 10 local level (LL)); the full deployment of new positions approved for 2016; the full deployment for the 12 months in 2017 of established national staff positions and general temporary assistance positions compared to the phased deployment in 2016; lower projected vacancy rates for international staff (2016: 25 per cent; 2017: 22 per cent); higher standard troop reimbursement rates in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/281; and increased requirements for contingent-owned major and self-sustainment equipment; the increases are offset in part by reduced requirements under operational costs, mainly for air transportation, ground transportation, communications and information technology requirements;

(b) UNRCCA: increased requirements for national staff costs based on applicable salary scales; increase in requirements for information technology; rental and maintenance of offices shared with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and replacement of one unserviceable vehicle;

(c) UNSMIL: re-establishment of a permanent presence in Libya through a phased return, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 2259 (2015) and 2273 (2016), resulting in a proposed establishment of 119 new positions, the planned deployment of 234 United Nations guards to Tripoli and increased requirements under operational costs (see paras. 54-58 and 61-63 below);

(d) UNOWAS: higher projected vacancy rates for national staff and military observers; and streamlining of consultancy and travel requirements following the merger of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel;

(e) UNIOGBIS: decrease in international staff costs reflecting the lower actual average step in grade and dependency status of current incumbents based on expenditure trends; removal of the one-time provision made in 2016 for electrical, safety and security and other equipment; decrease in requirements for ground transportation owing to in-house maintenance and repairs;

(f) Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission: reduced number of civilian observers from eight to five, as fewer observation missions would be possible in the northern parts of Cameroon and Nigeria owing to the Boko Haram threats;

(g) UNOCA: decrease in international and national staff costs reflecting the lower actual average step in grade and dependency status of current incumbents, based on expenditure trends; and decrease in travel requirements based on the number of election-related activities;

(h) UNSCOL: higher projected vacancy rates for international staff; lower network connectivity costs, offset in part by increase in travel requirements owing to Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) and the good offices mandates of the mission.

Relocation of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya to Libya

11. In his main report (A/71/365), the Secretary-General indicates that the Security Council has recognized the need for UNSMIL to re-establish its presence in Libya through a phased return, as political and security conditions allow, and to make the necessary security arrangements, as set out in its resolutions 2238 (2015) and 2291 (2016). The Secretary-General further indicates, in his report on cluster III, that it is vital that the Mission re-establish a permanent presence in Libya (A/71/365/Add.3, para. 227).

12. According to the Secretary-General, while a small office will remain operational in Tunis in 2017, UNSMIL will work towards the phased, gradual relocation of Mission staff to Tripoli. As a first phase, security conditions permitting, UNSMIL will focus on the relocation of senior United Nations staff and staff performing critical substantive functions, alongside essential Mission support functions. The core of the security component will also move to the new headquarters. Progress in the political and security spheres allowing, UNSMIL anticipates the relocation of the majority of the remaining positions to Tripoli by the end of 2017 (A/71/365/Add.3, para. 250).

13. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed by the Secretariat that a joint assessment carried out by UNSMIL, the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Safety and Security, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department for Field Support had concluded that the protection by a United Nations Guard Unit is a prerequisite for the return of UNSMIL to Tripoli. On 16 May 2016, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General sent a letter to the President of the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord of Libya seeking the concurrence of the Government for the deployment of a guard unit, providing details on the numbers of military personnel, its tasks and responsibilities. The Committee was informed by the Secretariat that, in a letter dated 12 June 2016, the Presidency Council transmitted its approval for the deployment of the United Nations Guard Unit.

14. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with the following table, which shows the planned timeline for the completion of the construction works for the deployment of the United Nations Guard Unit.

Table 3
Essential construction work for the deployment of the United Nations Guard Unit at the UNSMIL compound in Tripoli

Scope of work	*Timeline*
Perimeter protection: includes improvements to the perimeter of the identified compound, replacement of existing chain-link fence, installation of razor-wire topping on the wall, flood lights and security gates with locking mechanisms for all entry points	60 days/November-early December 2016
Explosive threat mitigation: replacement of glass entry doors, anti-blast protection on windows, HESCO barriers, displacement and improvement of entry gates, installation of metal bars and safe rooms for staff accommodation (the latter will take place over 190 days, however, given the phased deployment of staff, it is not anticipated that this will impact the staff deployment timeline)	20 days/November 2016
Access control: includes magnetometers and X-ray machines at the pedestrian screening areas, weapons clearing and storage and door hardware with deadlocks	70 days/November-mid-December 2016
Electronic security and related requirements: includes an intrusion detection system; closed-circuit television; class K fire extinguishers; helipad; staff notification system; and installation of a roof over the petrol station	45 days/November-December 2016
Rub hall storage, field kitchen for United Nations Guard Unit, workshop for vehicles and ammunition storage	60 days/December 2016-January 2017

15. The Advisory Committee sought clarification on whether there would be any cost-savings benefits in 2017 related to the phased relocation and on the estimated one-time-only cost of the relocation. As indicated in the response provided, the relocation of the mission to Tripoli would, in the short term, generate increased costs both in terms of personnel costs (installation and relocation costs) and in terms of the necessary operational infrastructure, including: engineering infrastructure; safety and security equipment; ground and air transportation; medical and other budget lines that are directly linked to the re-establishment of the Mission's presence in Tripoli. The estimated one-time relocation cost for 80 international staff is $1.6 million, which includes the installation of staff in Libya and the repatriation of their families from Tunis. A further $50,000 would be required to relocate vehicles and supply items from Tunisia to Libya.

16. The Advisory Committee was also informed that in the long term, from 2018 onwards, efficiencies could be anticipated in the form of a decreased rental provision for UNSMIL premises in Tunis and possible decreases under official travel and air transportation costs as the Mission personnel and presence in Libya will no longer depend on the provision of a continuous air bridge between Tunis and Tripoli. **The Advisory Committee looks forward to these savings being reflected in the future budget submissions for UNSMIL.**

A. Comments and recommendation on staffing requirements

17. The approved positions under cluster III for 2016, the vacancy situation as at 30 September 2016 and the staffing proposals of the Secretary-General for 2017 are summarized in table 4 below. The Advisory Committee was also provided with additional information on the actual vacancy rates for all positions under thematic cluster III, special political missions, as at 30 September 2016 (see annex III to the present report). The comments of the Committee and its recommendations on variances, resource requirements and staffing proposals are set out under the discussion of the individual missions in the following paragraphs. The proposed staffing structures of five of the eight missions in cluster III (UNOWAS, UNRCCA, Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, UNSCOL and UNOCA) provide for no additional positions.

Table 4
Thematic cluster III: summary of staffing requirements[a]

	Approved for 2016	*Vacant positions as at 30 September*	*Proposed for 2017*[b]	*New positions*	*Abolishments*	*Reclassifications*
UNOWAS[c]	63 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 2 D-1, 7 P-5, 13 P-4, 7 P-3, 7 FS, 6 NPO, 19 LL)	9 (1 P-5, 2 P-4, 4 P-3, 1 NPO, 1 LL)	63 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 2 D-1, 7 P-5, 13 P-4, 7 P-3, 7 FS, 6 NPO, 19 LL)	2 (1 NPO, 1 LL)	2 (1 NPO, 1 LL)	—
UNIOGBIS	137 (1 USG, 2 D-2, 2 D-1, 6 P-5, 13 P-4, 9 P-3, 28 FS, 26 NPO, 40 LL, 10 UNV)	13 (3 P-4, 2 P-3, 4 FS, 3 NPO, 1 LL)	138 (1 USG, 2 D-2, 2 D-1, 6 P-5, 13 P-4, 9 P-3, 28 FS, 26 NPO, 40 LL, 11 UNV)	1 (1 national UNV)	—	—
UNSOM	265 (1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 7 D-1, 30 P-5, 37 P-4, 29 P-3, 1 P-2, 45 FS, 69 NPO, 39 LL, 4 UNV)	76 (6 P-5, 10 P-4, 6 P-3, 6 FS, 28 NPO, 19 LL, 1 UNV)	283 (1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 7 D-1, 30 P-5, 39 P-4, 31 P-3, 1 P-2, 49 FS, 69 NPO, 49 LL, 4 UNV)	18 (2 P-4, 2 P-3, 4 FS, 10 LL)	—	—
UNRCCA	30 (1 ASG, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3, 2 FS, 4 NPO, 18 LL)	1 (1 P-5)	30 (1 ASG, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3, 2 FS, 4 NPO, 18 LL)	—	—	—
United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission	12 (3 P-5, 6 P-4, 1 FS, 2 LL)	—	12 (3 P-5, 6 P-4, 1 FS, 2 LL)	—	—	—
UNSCOL	82 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 1 D-1, 2 P-5, 6 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2, 7 FS, 4 NPO, 58 LL)	6 (1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 LL, 1 NPO)	82 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 1 D-1, 2 P-5, 6 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2, 7 FS, 4 NPO, 58 LL)	—	—	—
UNOCA	41 (1 USG, 2 D-1, 4 P-5, 11 P-4, 4 P-3, 7 FS, 4 NPO, 8 LL)	9 (2 P-5, 3 P-4, 2 NPO, 2 LL)	41 (1 USG, 2 D-1, 4 P-5, 11 P-4, 4 P-3, 7 FS, 4 NPO, 8 LL)	—	—	—

	Approved for 2016	*Vacant positions as at 30 September*	*Proposed for 2017*	*New positions*	*Abolishments*	*Reclassifications*
UNSMIL	197 (1 USG, 2 ASG, 2 D-2, 7 D-1, 10 P-5, 27 P-4, 28 P-3, 2 P-2, 74 FS, 1 GS-OL, 8 NPO, 33 LL, 2 UNV)	26 (1 ASG, 1 D-1, 1 P-5, 8 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2, 5 FS, 2 NPO, 6 LL)	316 (1 USG, 3 ASG, 2 D-2, 7 D-1, 12 P-5, 36 P-4, 37 P-3, 2 P-2, 118 FS, 1 GS-OL, 10 NPO, 75 LL, 12 UNV)	119 (1 ASG, 2 P-5, 9 P-4, 9 P-3, 44 FS, 2 NPO, 42 LL, 10 UNV)	—	—

Abbreviations: USG, Under-Secretary-General; ASG, Assistant Secretary-General; FS, Field Service; GS (OL), General Service (Other level); LL, Local level; NPO, National Professional Officer; UNV, United Nations Volunteer.

[a] Excludes requirements for the United Nations Mission in Colombia.

[b] The approved 2016 staffing for UNOWAS reflects the sum of the approved 2016 staffing for UNOWA and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel.

[c] UNOWAS proposes the redeployment of 2 positions in 2017, as follows: proposed redeployment of 1 Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) from Dakar to Nouakchott; and proposed redeployment of 1 Political Affairs Officer (P-4) from Bamako to Dakar.

United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel

18. The proposed budget for UNOWAS for 2017 provides for the establishment of two new positions (1 Administrative Assistant (National Professional Officer (NPO) and 1 Information Systems Assistant (LL); the abolishment of two positions, one Technical Compliance Officer (NPO) and one Switchboard Operator (LL); and the redeployment of two positions (1 P-4 from Bamako to Dakar and 1 P-5 from Dakar to Nouakchott).

19. The redeployment of a position of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) is proposed to further strengthen the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General as a result of the merger and to provide dedicated capacity for strategic planning in UNOWAS. The Political Affairs Officer (P-4) in the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General would assist, in particular, with strategic planning and the coordination of tasks in the implementation of the UNOWAS mandate.

20. A position of Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) is proposed for redeployment in connection with the establishment of the UNOWAS liaison cell in Nouakchott. As indicated in the supplementary information provided to the Advisory Committee, the establishment of the liaison cell was in response to a request of the Heads of State of the Group of Five for the Sahel for a relocation of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel to Nouakchott to ensure close coordination with the Group, and was endorsed in a statement made by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2016/11).

United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau

21. The Secretary-General proposes to establish one new national United Nations Volunteer position in the Public Information Unit of UNIOGBIS to provide additional support to the good offices of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, through the drafting of press releases, public statements and recording radio pieces and carrying out other public information-related tasks (A/71/365/Add.3, paras. 61 and 62). The new position will be split between the

headquarters/Bissau and the field region, thus providing important additional capacity and coverage. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the proposed position would be assigned to Bubaque, the capital of the Bolama-Bijagos island region. UNIOGBIS established an office in Bubaque in December 2015, and formally opened the office in April 2016. The national United Nations Volunteer would spend six months in Bubaque and another six months at UNIOGBIS headquarters in Bissau during the rainy season from May to October when the island region has intermittent access.

22. The Advisory Committee requested additional information on the existing staffing resources for the Public Information Unit in UNIOGBIS, including their locations, and further justification for the need for an additional United Nations Volunteer position in 2017 considering that three additional United Nations Volunteer positions were approved in the 2016 budget to provide support for the Unit. According to the information received, the three national United Nations Volunteer positions established in 2016 were placed in the field offices located in Sao Domingos, Bafata and Buba. The reason for the proposed establishment of an additional national United Nations Volunteer position is to provide coverage in the field office located in Bubaque (Guinea-Bissau's main island). Specifically, the national United Nations Volunteer position would strengthen the mission's community outreach in Bubaque and the surrounding islands, in addition to carrying out daily public information work in the Bolama-Bijagos archipelago. Like the national United Nations Volunteer positions in the other three field offices, the position in Bubaque would also serve as an extension of the Public Information Unit outside Bissau, disseminating information on the mission's mandate, contributing to the production of radio programmes (including reports, interviews, writing and editing), supporting communication activities of United Nations entities and monitoring local media and the activities of State authorities, political parties, religious and traditional authorities and civil society.

23. **Subject to its comments and observations in the paragraphs above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's 2017 staffing proposals for UNOWAS, UNRCCA, the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, UNSCOL, UNOCA and UNIOGBIS.**

United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

24. The Secretary-General proposes the establishment of 18 new positions (2 P-4, 2 P-3, 4 FS and 10 LL) for the mission in 2017 and resources for four new Government-provided personnel. As stated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365/Add.3, para. 114), the Security Council, in its resolution 2275 (2016), requested UNSOM to further strengthen its presence in all capitals of interim regional administrations in order to strategically support the political peace and reconciliation process and security sector reform.

25. **With regard to the proposed four additional substantive positions (2 P-4 and 2 P-3), the Advisory Committee recommends approval of two P-4 positions of Political Affairs Officers and one P-3 position of Human Rights Officer. The Committee recommends against establishing a second P-3 position of Human Rights Officer. Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly.**

26. The additional 14 non-substantive positions are proposed for: (a) four Close Protection Officer positions (FS) to strengthen the Mission's close protection operations by ensuring adequate protection coverage of the Mission principals, in accordance with existing policy and procedure; (b) two Local Security Assistants (LL) to conduct coordination with the local law enforcement agencies on operational matters, whenever needed; and (c) eight Radio Operators (LL) to maintain liaison with staff in the regional offices.

27. With regard to the eight Radio Operators, the Advisory Committee points out that the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) was established specifically for the provision of logistical support to United Nations activities in that country. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the request for the Radio Operators should have been submitted through the budget of UNSOS rather than UNSOM. Therefore, the Committee recommends against their establishment. Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly. A request for positions of Radio Operators should be submitted, if necessary, through the budget submission of UNSOS. Should the functions of Radio Operators need to be undertaken before the budget submission of UNSOS is presented for consideration by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General may consider authorizing the use of general temporary assistance.**

28. **Subject to its comments and recommendations in the paragraphs above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the staffing proposals of the Secretary-General for UNSOM.**

United Nations Support Mission in Libya

29. As indicated in his report (A/71/365/Add.3, table 24), the Secretary-General proposes the establishment of 119 new positions for UNSMIL in relation to the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2273 (2016) and 2291 (2016) and in the light of the changing and increasing nature of the Mission's work owing to efforts surrounding the implementation of the Libyan Political Agreement and the planned phased return to Tripoli. Thirty-three new positions are proposed for the substantive component (1 ASG, 1 P-5, 8 P-4, 6 P-3, 3 FS, 2 NPO, 6 LL and 6 United Nations Volunteers); 47 new positions are proposed for the security component (1 P-4, 1 P-3, 32 FS and 13 LL); and 39 new positions (1 P-5, 2 P-3, 9 FS, 23 LL and 4 United Nations Volunteers) are proposed for the support component, including one backstopping position (P-3) in the Department of Field Support. In addition, resources are requested for the establishment of seven Government-provided personnel (substantive component).

30. The proposed increase of 119 positions for 2017 represents a 60 per cent increase, compared with the established staffing of 197 positions for 2016, and it covers most organizational units of the mission. Moreover, UNSMIL is proposing to rename the Security Sector Advisory and Coordination Division the Security Institutions Division and to redeploy one P-5 position of Senior Information Analyst and one P-3 position of Information Analyst from the Office of the Chief of Staff to form a new independent unit, to be called the Joint Mission Analysis Cell.

31. The Advisory Committee enquired whether the proposed staffing changes are based on a staffing review. The Committee was informed that the proposed staffing table for 2017 is a result of an internal mission process involving discussions among

UNSMIL senior officials and the management team, including analyses and a number of evaluations conducted by various departments and offices of the United Nations system in conjunction with the Mission. The resourcing presented in the budget proposal represents the outcome of that process, as well as a review by senior management. UNSMIL reviewed the resources it would need to best implement its mandate, taking into account the preparation for the return of Mission headquarters to Tripoli and the phased deployment of staff.

32. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General undertake a review of the organizational structure and staffing requirements of UNSMIL based on a workload analysis. The review should also take into consideration services and functions of general temporary assistance staff, contractors and consultants (see also paras. 50, 63 and 64 below). The related results should be reported in the context of the next budget proposal for the Mission.**

33. A proposed vacancy factor applied for 2017 is as follows: 50 per cent for new and 18 per cent for continuing international staff; 35 per cent for new and 25 per cent for continuing national staff positions; 25 per cent for United Nations Volunteer positions; and 10 per cent for Government-provided personnel. The vacancy rates as at 30 September 2016 were: 20 per cent for international staff, 25 per cent for National Professional Officers, 18 per cent for national staff (L.L). As Libya continues to be characterized by instability and the ongoing political and security crisis, UNSMIL continues to experience delays in filling out its vacant positions. **Taking the higher-than-budgeted vacancy rates at UNSMIL into consideration (see annex III), the Advisory Committee is of the view that the assumptions for vacancy factors are overly optimistic and should be adjusted to reflect the application of: a 70 per cent vacancy rate for new international staff and a 20 per cent delayed deployment factor for the personnel of the United Nations Guard Unit. The Committee trusts that new positions will be filled only as and when the requirements for the functions of the positions arise and can realistically be carried out.**

Substantive component — 33 new positions and resources for 7 Government-provided personnel

34. The Secretary-General proposes to establish a position of Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Political at the Assistant Secretary-General level at UNSMIL. According to the Secretary-General, given the increased complexity of the operating environment being faced by the Mission and the protracted challenges it has to overcome with regard to the political process, the functions of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Political have become an urgent requirement. The position will provide the Special Representative of the Secretary-General with the appropriate level of senior support, as well as strengthen the political component of the Mission, in line with the level and depth of engagement expected. The Secretary-General further indicates that the numerous international initiatives aimed at resolving the crisis in Libya require a degree of attention and senior-level engagement both inside and outside the country that the Mission does not currently possess and that the Deputy Special Representative will be required to interact with interlocutors at the highest level,

carrying out the functions of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General when the latter is otherwise engaged (see A/71/365/Add.3, para. 261).

35. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon request, that the proposed Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Political would: lead engagement with officials and authorities from Libyan State institutions at the national, municipal and local levels, as well as with tribal structures; lead engagement with representatives of political parties, civil society organizations, religious entities, diplomatic corps and the donor community; lead the provision of substantive and technical advice to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the political situation; direct line management responsibilities for the Political and Constitutional Affairs Division, the Electoral Assistance Division, the Women's Empowerment Service and the Human Rights, Rule of Law and Transitional Justice Division; lead the development and implementation of a strategic vision for the planning and implementation of the Mission's programme of work; assume overall management of the Mission's day-to-day operations; and in the absence of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, assume the duties and the responsibilities of the Head of Mission, serving as Officer-in-charge and designated official ad interim.

36. In addition to the proposed establishment of an Assistant Secretary-General position of Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Political, the Secretary-General is proposing a total of 33 new positions for the substantive component (1 P-3 and 1 UNV for the Office of the Special Representative for the Secretary General; 1 P-4, 1 FS and 1 UNV for the Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General/Political; 2 P-4 and 1 NPO for the Office of the Deputy Special Representative/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator; 1 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 LL and 1 UNV for the Office of the Chief of Staff; 2 LL for the Translation/Interpretation Unit; 1 P-4, 1 FS and 4 Government-provided personnel for the Office of the Senior Military Adviser; 1 P-4 and 1 P-3 for the Joint Mission Analysis Cell; 1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 UNV and 3 Government-provided personnel for the Security Institutions Division (formerly Security Sector Advisory and Coordination Division); 1 LL and 1 UNV for the Political and Constitutional Affairs Division formerly Political Affairs Division; 2 P-3, 1 FS, 1 LL and 1 UNV for the Human Rights, Rule of Law and Transitional Justice Division; and 1 P-4, 1 NPO, 1 LL for the Women's Empowerment Service).

37. The Advisory Committee notes that the current organizational structure of UNSMIL provides for, among other positions, 1 Under-Secretary-General, 2 Assistant Secretary-General, 2 D-2, 7 D-1 and 10 P-5 positions. These 22 positions represent over 10 per cent of all staffing establishment of the 197 positions of the Mission for 2016. **While the Advisory Committee does not object to the proposed establishment of an additional Assistant Secretary-General post, it expects that a review of the organizational structure and staffing requirements of the Mission, recommended in paragraph 32 above, will also review the apparent large proportion of senior-level positions at UNSMIL.**

38. The Advisory Committee was provided, upon request, with additional information on the process for the identification, nomination and selection of Government-provided personnel, as follows: the terms of reference for the process of identification and selection of Government-provided personnel are discussed and

agreed with the Office of the Military Adviser (Department of Peacekeeping Operations), following the standard procedure for the identification and selection of such personnel based on the offer from Member States. The Committee was also informed that the need for four Government-provided personnel (military) is based upon current and anticipated levels of United Nations engagement in facilitating a "security dialogue/track" within the context of the broader mediation and good offices mandate of the Mission. The Mission assessed that Government-provided personnel were the best means of fulfilling its mandated tasks in the area of mediation and good offices with security actors and support to the legitimate institutions in laying the foundation for a comprehensive reform of the security sector.

39. The Advisory Committee was also informed that the proposal for three Government-provided personnel (police) responded to a written request by the Libyan Minister of Interior for support in policing activities in three specific fields: operational planning; training; and integration. The Committee was also informed that, should the resources be approved, the Police Division will reach out to police-contributing countries to solicit contributions, on the basis of which a selection process based on merit will be co-led by UNSMIL and the Department of Political Affairs, on the basis of an agreed terms of reference.

Security component: 47 new positions

40. The proposed establishment of 47 additional positions provides for the following: 1 post for Chief, Security Information and Operations Centre (P-4); 1 post for Coordination Officer (P-3); 30 Security Officers (FS); 1 Fire Safety Officer (FS); 1 Radio Room Supervisor (FS); 5 Fire Safety and Security Assistants (LL); and 8 Radio Room Assistants (LL).

41. As indicated in the budget submission, the Chief of the Security Information and Operations Centre will oversee and manage the work of the Centre, enhance unit capacity to rapidly assess threat and risk levels within the Mission and provide timely delivery of security analysis products and operational support to facilitate programme delivery. The proposed establishment of the positions of 30 Security Officers (FS) takes into account, inter alia, the re-establishment of operations in Libya, the need to improve the supervision of staff and the alignment of organizational reporting lines in accordance with United Nations Headquarters structures and the framework for accountability. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the current capacity of UNSMIL's Protective Services Unit does not allow the deployment of simultaneous protective operations in multiple locations to more than one senior United Nations official. Of the 30 positions being requested for establishment, 12 would provide additional coverage, primarily in the area of rapid reaction response operations as the Mission re-establishes itself in Libya and augment the close protection arrangements. The remaining 18 officers would provide two additional Close Protection Teams, each made up of nine Close Protection Officers. The two teams would provide protective services for the proposed Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Political, and the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Regional Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, respectively.

42. The Advisory Committee was also informed that the proposed Fire Safety Officer (FS) and two Security Assistants (Fire safety) (LL) will form an independent Fire Safety Unit within the Mission. Given UNSMIL's anticipated move back to Tripoli, and the limited capacity of Libyan authorities to provide a timely and effective response, it will be essential that the Mission have the capacity to respond to any fire-related incidents. The Unit will also be responsible for ensuring that the Mission compound meets fire safety standards and that all necessary procedures and processes are in place in this regard. The Fire Safety staff will further support the organization of fire safety measures and drills for staff.

Support component: 39 new positions

43. The new positions proposed for the support component (1 P-5, 2 P-3, 9 FS, 23 LL and 4 United Nations Volunteers) comprise: one P-5 and one Field Service position for the Chief of Mission Support; one P-3 and one Field Service position for the Human Resources Section; one Field Service and two local level positions for the Communications and Information Technology Systems; three local level and one United Nations Volunteer for the Engineering Section; one P-3, one Field Service, eight local level and one United Nations Volunteer for the Transport Section; 1 Field Service and one local level position for the Medical Section; 1 Field Service and one local level position for the Procurement Section; one Field Service position for the Property Management Section; two Field Service and three local level positions for the Central Warehouse and Distribution Section; and five local level and two United Nations Volunteer positions for Air Operations. The P-3 position in the Transport Section is proposed for a backstop Logistics Officer position in the Logistics Support Division of the Department of Field Support in New York in order to meet the planning, operational support and coordination requirements posed by UNSMIL.

44. **The Advisory Committee was not provided with sufficient justification for the P-3 Logistics Officer position proposed to be established in the Transport Section in the Logistics Support Division of the Department of Field Support, therefore it recommends against the establishment of this position. Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly. The Committee is also of the view that the presentation of the proposed Headquarters backstopping support requirements for UNSMIL lacks clarity and should be improved by indicating all relevant existing and proposed backstopping support positions not only in the supplementary information provided to the Committee, but also in the budget.** Further comments and observations on backstopping requirements at Headquarters are contained in the main report of the Committee (A/71/595).

45. The Advisory Committee sought clarification as to the reason for the increased ratio of support staff to the overall staffing establishment of the mission (30 per cent ratio for 2017, compared with 28 per cent for 2016). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the increased ratio is due to the requirements to support the increased number of overall mission staff and the deployment of a 234-person United Nations Guard Unit, as well as the re-establishment of the Mission's operation in Libya. While the Guard Unit provides major equipment and services under the self-sustainment categories, UNSMIL is responsible for providing office space, ground transportation, communications and information technology, furnished accommodation, laundry, cleaning and catering.

46. The Advisory Committee was informed that eight staff of the Mission are currently posted at the United Nations Global Service Centre in Brindisi, Italy, providing support to UNSMIL in: claims and property survey board assistance; requisitioning support; financial accounts reconciliation and international vendor payments; travel services; and procurement services with the Local Committee on Contracts. **The Advisory Committee questions whether these eight staff were taken into account in assessing the needs of the Mission for additional support positions and trusts that the necessary clarification will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report. The Committee cautions against potential overlapping functions of staff posted to the Global Service Centre in Brindisi with those assigned to new positions in the field. For example, while travel services are provided by staff working in Brindisi, a new Field Service position for a Travel Officer is also proposed for the Human Resources Section of the Mission for travel-related transactions. Taking into account the significant increase in support positions of the Mission proposed for 2017, the Committee recommends that the arrangement concerning the support staff of UNSMIL at the United Nations Global Service Centre in Brindisi be re-examined in the review recommended in paragraph 32 above.**

47. **Subject to its comments and recommendations in the paragraphs above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the staffing proposals of the Secretary-General for UNSMIL.**

B. Comments and recommendations on operational costs

48. The proposed resources for operational costs for the eight special political missions under thematic cluster III in 2017 amount to $105,715,900, reflecting an increase of $14,160,700 (15.5 per cent) compared with the appropriation of $91,555,200 for 2016. Taking into account the projected overexpenditure at the end of 2016, estimated at $1,689,100 (3.5 per cent) over the appropriation for 2016 ($19,685,300), the net resource requirements for operational costs estimated by the Secretary-General for 2017 amount to $107,405,000 (see para. 9 above).

Consultants: a decrease of $524,600

49. The key contributing factor to the net decrease of $524,600 is the reduction in the number of civilian observers and the lower number of technical advisory meetings and field visits projected for the United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission (a decrease of $434,900).

50. The Advisory Committee sought further clarification on why consultants are needed at UNSMIL, and why the work cannot be undertaken by in-house expertise of existing Mission staff. The Committee was provided with a list of projects, the number of consultants to be engaged, consultancy work-months, the estimated costs and other data. A brief review of the projects to be undertaken by consultants raises questions. For example, the Political and Constitutional Affairs Division, with its proposed staffing of 20 positions (including 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 2 P-5, 5 P-4, 3 P-3, 1 P-2 and 2 FS), proposes to hire 11 consultants for a total of more than 14 work-months to work on 11 projects, including one that appears to be a day-to-day activity of the

Division, "Support to Constitution Drafting Assembly in outreach and communications strategy". **The Advisory Committee trusts that future budget submissions for UNSMIL will provide sufficient justification for all consultancy services and indicate clearly the reason why in-house expertise cannot be used.**

Official travel: a decrease of $515,900

51. The decrease of $515,900 reflects reduced requirements for official travel in UNOWAS ($83,000), UNIOGBIS ($25,300), UNSOM ($285,100), UNOCA ($40,000) and UNSMIL ($98,200), partially offset by increased requirements of $31,200 for UNSCOL due to increased regional travel by the Head of Mission linked to Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) and the mission's good offices mandate.

Facilities and infrastructure: an increase of $8,138,500

52. The total increase of $8,138,500 combines additional requirements of $3,225,600 for UNSOM, $25,500 for UNRCCA, $7,400 for UNSCOL and $5,163,900 for UNSMIL, which are partially offset by reduced requirements of $13,900 for UNOWAS and $244,400 for UNIOGBIS.

53. With regard to the additional requirements of $3,225,600 for UNSOM, the Advisory Committee was informed that the increase is mainly due to: (a) increased requirements for alteration and renovation services/architectural and demolition services related to the replacement of prefabricated structures for living accommodations with hard-wall structures that are compliant with minimum operating security standards (MOSS) owing to the deteriorating security situation in Mogadishu. The Committee was further informed that the security situation in Somalia has become increasingly complex in recent months, leading to updated security risk assessments being undertaken for United Nations premises in Mogadishu, including the recommendation that all United Nations staff accommodations in the compound be urgently made MOSS compliant; (b) increased consumption of petrol, oil and lubricants resulting from the use of generators; and (c) increased need for maintenance services attributable to the implementation of the reactive and preventive maintenance contracts for equipment and facilities maintenance to cover all UNSOM offices throughout Somalia.

54. As indicated in the supplementary information provided to the Advisory Committee on UNSMIL, the additional requirement of $5,163,900 reflects the difference between the estimated requirement of $10,993,300 for 2017 and the amount of appropriation of $5,829,400 for 2016. The bulk of the estimated total resource requirement of $10,993,300 under facilities and infrastructure for 2017 relates to rental of premises ($7,999,500), alteration and renovation services ($1,500,000) and acquisition of safety and security equipment ($305,800).

55. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon request, that out of the total provision of $7,999,500 proposed for rental of premises, $7,250,000 would be required for a new headquarters facility in Tripoli, including the necessary security improvement works, as agreed by the landlord, while the remaining $750,000 would cover the rental costs of office and vehicle storage facilities in Zarzis for three months of 2017 and the cost to rent office premises in Tunis and at Tunis airport for one year. The Committee was further informed that a provision of $1,500,000 for

alteration and renovation services will be also required in order to carry out extensive security upgrade works at the headquarters facility in Tripoli. **Given that significant resources are proposed for security upgrade works at the headquarters facility in Tripoli, the Advisory Committee cautions against possible overlapping in security improvement works and recommends a reduction of $1.0 million to the proposed increase of $5.2 million under facilities and infrastructure for 2017. The Committee's comments and recommendation on the rate of utilization of resources approved for UNSMIL under facilities and infrastructure for 2016, as contained in paragraph 8 above, would also have an impact on the proposed net requirements for 2017 (see annex II).**

Ground transportation: an increase of $3,807,900

56. The increase of $3,807,900 is mainly attributable to increased requirements for UNSMIL ($4,641,700), partially offset by a decrease of $772,800 at UNSOM. As indicated in the supplementary information provided to the Advisory Committee, the increased requirements for UNSMIL are mainly due to the proposed acquisition of vehicles and workshop equipment, including provision for the acquisition of 23 armoured vehicles and 2 armoured ambulances, owing to the re-establishment of a permanent presence in Libya. The 23 additional armoured vehicles would replace 35 soft-skin vehicles that have been written off. The Committee was informed that once the Mission returns to Libya, the majority of the armoured vehicles will be moved from Tunis to Libya. At present, the UNSMIL vehicle fleet comprises 95 vehicles, including workshop equipment.

57. The Advisory Committee was provided, upon request, with information on actual expenditures for 2016 under petrol, oil and lubricants amounting to $12,098 as of September 2016, compared with the approved budget of $120,100, which might indicate that there will be significant underexpenditure for this budget line for 2016. In the explanation provided on the matter, the Committee was informed that, due to the security conditions in Libya and the absence of permanent presence in Tripoli, UNSMIL had very limited capacity to utilize its fleet of vehicles. **The Advisory Committee points out that the underexpenditure for 2016 related to the budget line for petrol, oil and lubricants (see para. 8 above) will also result in a reduction of the estimated net requirements for UNSMIL for 2017. Moreover, the Committee considers that the phased deployment should be taken into account with regard to the phased acquisition of vehicles and workshop equipment during 2017. The Committee therefore recommends a reduction of $1.0 million in the proposed increase of $4.6 million under ground transportation for 2017.**

Air transportation: increase of $1,862,200

58. The increase of $1,862,200 is mainly attributable to increased requirements for UNSMIL ($3,241,700) and UNOWAS ($287,700), which are partially offset by a reduction of $1,751,700 in resource requirements for UNSOM. As indicated in the supplementary information provided to the Advisory Committee, the increased requirements for UNSMIL are mainly due to an increase in number of budgeted flight hours, from 602 in 2016 to 960 in 2017, for 1 fixed-wing aircraft, with a resulting increase in guaranteed costs. The Committee was informed that the future

permanent presence of UNSMIL in Tripoli will require flights to be conducted from Tunis (until security conditions are met to deploy the home base of the aircraft to Libya, which cannot currently be anticipated) to Tripoli before extending into other destinations in Libya, which increases the estimated yearly flight-hour expectations. The Committee also observes that while the budgeted flight hours are projected to increase in 2017 by about 60 per cent, the proposed requirements under air transportation would increase by 136 per cent from $2,385,300 to $5,627,000. **The Advisory Committee is not convinced that the increase in the proposed requirements under air transportation is justified and recommends a $1 million reduction in the proposed increase of $1.9 million under air transportation for UNSMIL in 2017.**

59. The increased requirements for UNOWAS are mainly attributable to: increased rental and operation costs for the fixed-wing aircraft due to the guaranteed fleet cost amount based on the 2017 contract; increased requirements for air crew subsistence allowance based on the number of flight days (from 172 days to 220 days); increased landing fee costs based on the number of sorties (from 176 to 190 sorties); increased petrol costs based on the average price per litre (from $1.60 in 2016, to $1.70 in 2017); and increased air navigation charges.

60. The reduction of $1,751,700 in resource requirements for air transportation in UNSOM is mainly due to: reduced requirements in rental and operation of two fixed-wing aircraft and two helicopters resulting from a change in the cost-sharing ratio between UNSOS and UNSOM from 52:48 in 2016 (July-December) to 70:30 for 2017 (January-December), based on the historical utilization of aircraft services by the two missions; and a reduction in the cost of petrol, oil and lubricants due to fewer flight hours for the helicopter, partly offset by increased requirements related to the acquisition of air transport equipment and supplies, navigation services and landing fees.

Communications, decrease of $303,300

61. The main contributing factor for the overall decrease is a reduction of $518,800 in resource requirements for UNSOM, which is partly offset by an increase of $226,800 for UNSMIL. As shown in the supplementary information provided to the Advisory Committee, the decrease for UNSOM reflects the removal of the one-time provision for the acquisition of communications equipment approved in 2016; and the increase for UNSMIL ($226,800) is mainly due to additional requirements for the acquisition and maintenance of communications equipment and services owing to the re-establishment of a permanent presence in Libya.

Medical, an increase of $796,200

62. The two missions contributing to the total increase in medical costs of $796,200 are UNSOM ($273,800) and UNSMIL ($522,400). The Advisory Committee was provided with supplementary information indicating that, at UNSOM, the increase mainly reflects the increase in the number of clinics: by the end of 2016 it is anticipated that five clinics will be in operation in Garowe, Baidoa, Beletweyne, Kismayo and Jowahar; and during 2017 one United Nations clinic will be established in Dhobley as staff members of UNSOM and UNSOS start deploying

to that location. As regards UNSMIL, the increase is mainly due to additional requirements resulting from the acquisition of medical equipment and supplies to replace unserviceable units and an increased provision for medical services due to a higher provision for aero-medical evacuations to ensure mission readiness owing to the re-establishment of a permanent UNSMIL presence in Libya.

Other supplies, services and equipment: an increase of $1,062,600

63. The estimated increase under other supplies, services and equipment is attributable to an increase for UNSMIL ($1,680,400), which is mainly due to additional requirements resulting from the estimated cost of mine action services managed by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), as well as the cost of individual contractors to perform multifunctional duties, such as supply, warehousing, fuel, rations and other contractual services. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the proposed resources of $932,200 for other services include provisions for technical support personnel in the form of individual contractors performing location-specific technical functions (short-term and specialized in nature); and waterborne evacuation capacity, reflected in the Libya Security Risk assessment report, to provide the waterborne evacuation capacity for UNSMIL personnel in case of emergency. Table 5 below provides a breakdown of the proposed resources of $932,200 by type of service performed by individual contractors, their quantity and the related cost estimates.

Table 5
Breakdown of proposed resources by type of service

Type	*Quantity*	*Total*
Moving and loader services	15	6 000
Individual contractors for facility management and administrative functions (skilled labour)	7	162 358
Various location-specific individual contractors with technical skills	20	463 880
Waterborne evacuation capacity	12	300 000
Total	**54**	**932 238**

64. **In view of the proposed establishment of a significant number of mission support positions for 2017, the Advisory Committee trusts that the management of UNSMIL will undertake all necessary measures to avoid duplication between functions performed by the mission support staff and those by individual contractors. The Committee recommends that future budget submissions for UNSMIL clearly indicate the reasons why mission support staff cannot perform functions assigned to individual contractors.**

C. Other matters

Merger of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel into the United Nations Office for West African and the Sahel

65. The Security Council requested the Secretary-General, through a letter dated 28 January 2016 (S/2016/89), to proceed with a merger of UNOWA and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel into a new United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), with a view to maximizing synergies by ensuring a unified management and structure for the new entity. The Council encouraged UNOWAS to make further progress towards the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and to continue to work closely with the States of the region, including the Group of Five for the Sahel, to tackle the threats to peace, security and development in the Sahel, as well as their root causes. The newly reconfigured Office builds upon the existing mandates of UNOWA and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel, including by continuing to exercise its good offices and implementing the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel.

66. The Secretary-General indicates in his report (A/71/365/Add.3, para. 4) that the proposed UNOWAS structure, which is in line with the Security Council's request for unified management and structure (S/2016/89), aims to maximize the use of existing resources through a clear division of responsibilities between the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and allows increased synergies and enhanced delivery of results. In preparing the proposed structure, staff members with similar skill sets were, to the extent possible, grouped together to achieve synergies. Staff with specialized skill sets and knowledge of cross-cutting issues, in particular on gender, human rights, military, political affairs and information analysis, are expected to contribute to the work of all concerned units and functions.

67. While the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the merger has also resulted in efficiencies under the areas of official travel, consultancies and translation and other conference-related resources, no specific information was provided on savings resulting from the merger. **The Advisory Committee would have expected that a merger would reduce staffing, especially in the support functions. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to review the new structure of UNOWAS with the aim of identifying possibilities for further efficiencies without affecting the implementation of the mandate, and to include the results of the review in the next budget submission for UNOWAS.**

Presentation of the results-based budgeting format

68. While the Advisory Committee recognizes the efforts to continue improving the presentation of the budget submissions for special political missions in cluster III in the results-based budgeting frameworks, it points out that the presentation of indicators of achievement for some missions needs to be further refined. The Committee discussed the matter with the representatives of the Secretary-General and, in view of the cross-cutting nature of the budget frameworks

for all special political missions, intends to provide related comments and observations in its main report (A/71/595).

Payroll processing

69. The Secretary-General reflects the operational arrangements regarding payroll processing for national staff and individual uniformed personnel in paragraphs 93 to 102 of his report (A/71/365). In view of the cross-cutting nature of payroll processing for all special political missions, the related comments and observations are contained in the main report of the Advisory Committee (A/71/595).

Nationalization of positions

70. The Advisory Committee recalls that no staffing proposal is made in cluster III missions for the nationalization of positions. The Committee also recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolutions 61/276 and 66/264, called for greater utilization of national staff. **The Advisory Committee stresses, therefore, the need for the Secretary-General to undertake further efforts to strengthen the Mission's national staffing complement, wherever appropriate, by nationalizing positions, specifically once the Mission begins the process for its relocation to Libya.**

III. Conclusion and recommendation

71. The Secretary-General's budgetary proposals for the 31 special political missions for 2017, which require action to be taken by the General Assembly, are set out in paragraph 129 of his main report on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/71/365).

72. **Subject to its comments and recommendations in the paragraphs above, as well as the comments and recommendations contained in its main report (A/71/595), the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposal for the resource requirements for 2017 for the eight special political missions under thematic cluster III.**

Annex I

Utilization of resources by special political missions under thematic cluster III

Category of expenditure	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
I. Military and police personnel												
1. Military observers	182.8	68.1	37	118.2	68.3	58						
2. Military contingent	–			–			12 362.4	6 837.3	55			
3. United Nations police				446.5	355.7	80	272.0	449.6	165			
Total, category I	**182.8**	**68.1**	**37**	**564.7**	**424.0**	**75**	**12 634.4**	**7 286.9**	**58**	–	–	–
II. Civilian personnel												
1. International staff	5 644.5	3 157.1	56	11 401.2	7 391.0	65	22 530.0	18 770.2	83	1 494.4	1 126.9	75
2. National staff	977.5	598.4	61	1 821.6	1 342.1	74	2 422.8	1 730.6	71	542.3	388.8	72
3. United Nations Volunteers	–		–	373.0	191.3	51	172.7	134.6	78	–	–	–
4. General temporary assistance	–		–	–	–	–	861.1		–	–	–	–
5. Government-provided personnel	–	–	–	116.7	11.4	10	304.9	80.0	26	–	–	–
Total, category II	**6 622.0**	**3 755.5**	**57**	**13 712.5**	**8 935.8**	**65**	**26 291.5**	**20 715.4**	**79**	**2 036.7**	**1 515.7**	**74**
III. Operational costs												
1. Consultants	359.3	104.1	29	98.8	76.9	78	756.2	445.2	59	40.5	2.6	6
2. Official travel	940.3	346.2	37	694.0	388.7	56	2 060.0	1 877.1	91	248.0	161.4	65
3. Facilities and infrastructure	302.1	81.3	27	1 422.6	987.6	69	18 637.2	13 749.0	74	132.4	37.3	28
4. Ground transportation	87.4	26.3	30	273.2	71.0	26	4 130.1	161.1	4	38.2	25.6	67
5. Air transportation	3 790.5	3 412.0	90	1 073.5	1 057.3	98	11 902.2	3 082.0	26	–	–	–
6. Naval transportation	–	–	–	27.4	10.2	37	–	–	–	–	–	–
7. Communications	552.6	151.3	27	806.8	565.3	70	6 538.5	2 979.8	46	343.0	193.3	56

Category of expenditure	United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel			United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau			United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia			United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia		
	Appropriation 1 January to 31 December 2016	Actual expenditure up to 30 September 2016	Utilization rate (percentage)	Appropriation 1 January to 31 December 2016	Actual expenditure up to 30 September 2016	Utilization rate (percentage)	Appropriation 1 January to 31 December 2016	Actual expenditure up to 30 September 2016	Utilization rate (percentage)	Appropriation 1 January to 31 December 2016	Actual expenditure up to 30 September 2016	Utilization rate (percentage)
8. Information technology	153.9	73.0	47	383.6	422.2	110	2 778.5	4 017.2	145	52.1	91.2	175
9. Medical	–	–	–	192.1	103.8	54	3 692.7	2 275.3	62	–	–	–
10. Other supplies, services and equipment	339.3	68.0	20	670.7	655.2	98	4 065.3	2 327.2	57	131.8	63.6	48
Total, category III	**6 525.4**	**4 262.2**	**65**	**5 642.7**	**4 338.2**	**77**	**54 560.7**	**30 913.9**	**57**	**986.0**	**575.0**	**58**
Total requirements	**13 330.2**	**8 085.8**	**61**	**19 919.9**	**13 698.0**	**69**	**93 486.6**	**58 916.2**	**63**	**3 022.7**	**2 090.7**	**69**

Category of expenditure	Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission			Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon			United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa			United Nations Support Mission in Libya		
	Appropriation 1 January to 31 December 2016	Actual Expenditure up to 30 September 2016	Utilization rate (percentage)	Appropriation 1 January to 31 December 2016	Actual expenditure up to 30 September 2016	Utilization rate (percentage)	Appropriation 1 January to 31 December 2016	Actual expenditure up to 30 September 2016	Utilization rate (percentage)	Appropriation 1 January to 31 December 2016	Actual expenditure up to 30 September 2016	Utilization rate (percentage)
I. Military and police personnel												
1. Military observers	95.6	50.9	53	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2. Military contingent	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	140.8	–
3. United Nations police	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total, category I	**95.6**	**50.9**	**53**	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	**140.8**	–
II. Civilian personnel												
1. International staff	1 719.0	1 249.2	73	3 466.2	2 376.9	69	4 738.7	2 853.7	60	22 500.0	14 310.4	64
2. National staff	67.9	30.5	45	3 351.1	2 460.5	73	392.6	333.1	85	1 454.4	927.3	64
3. United Nations Volunteers	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	86.0	104.6	122
4. General temporary assistance	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
5. Government-provided personnel	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3.7	–
Total, category II	**1 786.9**	**1 279.7**	**72**	**6 817.3**	**4 837.4**	**71**	**5 131.3**	**3 186.8**	**62**	**24 040.4**	**15 346.0**	**64**

Category of expenditure	Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission: Appropriation 1 January to 31 December 2016	Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission: Actual expenditure up to 30 September 2016	Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission: Utilization rate (percentage)	Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon: Appropriation 1 January to 31 December 2016	Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon: Actual expenditure up to 30 September 2016	Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon: Utilization rate (percentage)	United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa: Appropriation 1 January to 31 December 2016	United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa: Actual expenditure up to 30 September 2016	United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa: Utilization rate (percentage)	United Nations Support Mission in Libya: Appropriation 1 January to 31 December 2016	United Nations Support Mission in Libya: Actual expenditure up to 30 September 2016	United Nations Support Mission in Libya: Utilization rate (percentage)
III. Operational costs												
1. Consultants	1 346.0	553.7	41	37.5	18.0	48	60.0	8.0	13	681.7	179.8	26
2. Official travel	483.0	309.9	64	210.0	194.9	93	815.1	572.1	70	2 135.0	1 437.6	67
Facilities and infrastructure	303.4	247.1	81	845.3	784.0	93	232.8	261.8	112	5 829.4	2 487.6	43
4. Ground transportation	49.4	38.6	78	84.9	79.7	94	56.1	52.5	94	388.1	127.8	33
5. Air transportation	301.3	301.9	100	–	–	–	227.5	311.0	137	2 385.3	2 105.6	88
6. Naval transportation	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
7. Communications	239.3	45.4	19	214.8	96.5	45	329.8	214.4	50	2 114.0	1 105.0	52
Information technology	111.6	65.5	59	97.2	76.3	78	84.0	81.2	97	440.1	788.5	179
9. Medical	–	0.2	–	2.0	1.0	50	–	–	–	245.7	44.1	18
Other supplies, services and equipment	241.7	135.9	56	157.7	79.5	50	68.9	182.3	265	2 921.8	2 604.9	89
Total, category III	**3 075.7**	**1 698.2**	**55**	**1 649.4**	**1 329.9**	**81**	**1 974.2**	**1 683.3**	**85**	**17 141.1**	**10 880.9**	**63**
Total requirements	**4 958.2**	**3 028.8**	**61**	**8 466.7**	**6 167.3**	**73**	**7 105.5**	**4 870.1**	**69**	**41 181.5**	**26 367.7**	**64**

Annex II

United Nations Support Mission in Libya

Summary statement

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January-31 December 2016			Requirements for 1 January-31 December 2017				
	Appropriation	Estimated expenditure	Variance	Appropriation 2016	Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	Variance (2017-2016)	Net requirements for 2017
Category of expenditure	(1)	(2)	(3) = (1)-(2)	(4) = (1)	(5)	(6)	(7) = (5)-(4)	(8) = (5)-(6)
I. Military and police personnel								
1 Military observers								
2 Military contingents		150.0	(150.0)		9 991.5		9 991.5	10 141.5
3 United Nations police								
4 Formed police units								
Total, category I		**150.0**	**(150.0)**		**9 991.5**		**9 991.5**	**10 141.5**
II. Civilian personnel								
1 International staff	22 500.0	22 077.2	422.8	22 500.0	24 893.9		2 393.9	24 471.1
2 National staff	1 454.4	1 719.2	(264.8)	1 454.4	1 939.4		485.0	2 204.2
3 United Nations Volunteers	86.0	86.0		86.0	274.7		188.7	274.7
4 General temporary assistance								
5 Government-provided personnel		72.0	(72.0)		287.9		287.9	359.9
Total, category II	**24 040.4**	**23 954.4**	**86.0**	**24 040.4**	**27 395.9**		**3 355.5**	**27 309.9**
III. Operational costs								
1 Experts								
2 Consultants	681.7	681.7		681.7	677.5		(4.2)	677.5
3 Official travel	2 135.0	2 135.0		2 135.0	2 036.8		(98.2)	2 036.8
4 Facilities and infrastructure	5 829.4	3 636.2	2 193.2	5 829.4	10 993.3	294.1	5 163.9	8 800.1
5 Ground transportation	388.1	562.7	(174.6)	388.1	5 029.8	4 073.0	4 641.7	5 204.4
6 Air transportation	2 385.3	2 489.4	(104.1)	2 385.3	5 627.0		3 241.7	5 731.1
7 Naval transportation								
8 Communications	2 114.0	2 393.4	(279.4)	2 114.0	2 340.8	528.6	226.8	2 620.2

	1 January–31 December 2016			Requirements for 1 January–31 December 2017				
Category of expenditure	Appropriation	Estimated expenditure	Variance	Appropriation 2016	Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	Variance (2017–2016)	Net requirements for 2017
	(1)	(2)	(3)=(1)-(2)	(4)=(1)	(5)	(6)	(7)=(5)-(4)	(8)=(5)-(3)
9 Information technology	440.1	882.3	(442.2)	440.1	861.6	135.0	421.5	1 303.8
10 Medical	245.7	257.0	(11.3)	245.7	768.1	–	522.4	779.4
11 Special equipment	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
12 Other supplies, services and equipment	2 921.8	2 921.8	–	2 921.8	4 602.2	–	1 680.4	4 602.2
13 Quick-impact projects	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total, category III	**17 141.1**	**15 959.5**	**1 181.6**	**17 141.1**	**32 937.1**	**5 031.7**	**15 796.0**	**31 755.5**
Total (net of staff assessment)	**41 181.5**	**40 063.9**	**1 117.6**	**41 181.5**	**70 324.5**	**5 031.7**	**29 143.0**	**69 206.9**

[a] Net requirements after taking into account the estimated underexpenditure or overexpenditure for 2016.

Annex III

Comparison of vacancy rates[a]

(Percentages have been rounded)

Mission	UNOWAS	UNOWAS	UNSOM	UNMCA	UNAMI	UNSCOL	UNSCA	UNSAMI
Military observers (military advisers)								
2016 approved number of positions	2	2		1				
2016 budgeted vacancy rate	0	0		0				
Actual average vacancy rate for the period from January to August 2016	29	0		0				
Actual vacancy rate as at 30 September 2016	0	0		0				
Projected average vacancy rate for 2016 (January to December)	29	0		0				
2017 proposed number of positions	2	2		1				
Proposed vacancy rate for 2017	29	0		0				
Contingents								
2016 approved number of positions			530				222	
2016 budgeted vacancy rate			5				10	
Actual average vacancy rate for the period from January to August 2016			0				100	
Actual vacancy rate as at 30 September 2016			0				100	
Projected average vacancy rate for 2016 (January to December)			0				100	
2017 proposed number of positions			530				234	
Proposed vacancy rate for 2017			5				10	
Police advisers (United Nations police)								
2016 approved number of positions		13	13					
2016 budgeted vacancy rate		10	8					
Actual average vacancy rate for the period from January to August 2016		8	13					
Actual vacancy rate as at 30 September 2016		8	14					
Projected average vacancy rate for 2016 (January to December)		8	7					
2017 proposed number of positions		13	13					
Proposed vacancy rate for 2017		10	7					

Mission	*UNOWAS*	*UNIOGBIS*	*UNSOM*	*UNRCCA*	*UNSMIL*	*UNOCA*	*UNOCI*	*UNSMIH*
International staff								
2016 approved number of positions	38	61	153	8	10	20	29	154
2016 budgeted vacancy rate	15	10	25	5	5	5	22	5
Actual average vacancy rate for the period from January to August 2016	15	8	27	13	0	20	27	13
Actual vacancy rate as at 30 September 2016	18	20	29	0	0	15	17	20
Projected average vacancy rate for 2016 (January to December)	15	8	22	13	0	15	17	11
2017 proposed number of positions	38	61	161	8	10	20	29	219
Proposed vacancy rate for 2017	15 New York and Nouakchott 0	10	22 New 50	13	0	15	17	18 New 50
National Professional Officers								
2016 approved number of positions	6	26	69	4	–	4	4	8
2016 budgeted vacancy rate	7	12 New 35	35	5	–	5	0	5
Actual average vacancy rate for the period from January to August 2016	17	11.5	42	0	–	25	50	25
Actual vacancy rate as at 30 September 2016	17	12	41	0	–	25	50	25
Projected average vacancy rate for 2016 (January to December)	17	8	41	0	–	0	25	22
2017 proposed number of positions	6	26	69	4	–	4	4	10
Proposed vacancy rate for 2017	17 New 35	8	41	0	–	0	25	25 New 35
National staff (Local level)								
2016 approved number of positions	19	40	39	18	2	58	8	33
2016 budgeted vacancy rate	9	2	35	5	0	5	0	5
Actual average vacancy rate for the period from January to August 2016	20	0	46	0	25	5	12.5	18
Actual vacancy rate as at 30 September 2016	5	3	49	0	0	3	25	18
Projected average vacancy rate for 2016 (January to December)	20	0	36	0	17	3	12.5	16
2017 proposed number of positions	19	40	49	18	2	58	8	75
Proposed vacancy rate for 2017	20 New 35	2	36 New 50	0	17	3	12.5	25 New 35

Mission	*UNOWAS*	*UNIOGBIS*	*UNSOM*	*UNRCCA*	*UNMC*	*UNSCOL*	*UNOCA*	*UNSMIL*
United Nations Volunteers								
2016 approved number of positions	10	39	—	—	—	—	—	2
2016 budgeted vacancy rate	International: 12 National: 0	20	—	—	—	—	—	3
Actual average vacancy rate for the period from January to August 2016	International: 14 National: 33	0	—	—	—	—	—	0
Actual vacancy rate as at 30 September 2016	0	25	—	—	—	—	—	0
Projected average vacancy rate for 2016 (January to December)	International: 0 National: 33	0	—	—	—	—	—	0
2017 proposed number of positions	11	49	—	—	—	—	—	12
Proposed vacancy rate for 2017	International: 5 National: 5 New: 35	0	—	—	—	—	—	25

Abbreviations: UNOWAS, United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel; UNIOGBIS, United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau; UNSOM, United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia; UNRCCA, United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia; UNMC, United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission; UNSCOL, Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon; UNOCA, United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa; UNSMIL, United Nations Support Mission in Libya

Note: En dash in the table (—) denotes a personnel category that is not applicable for that mission

[a] In 2016 UNSMIL military contingents were budgeted for six months (July-December) with a vacancy rate of 10 per cent. As of 30 September 2016 no military contingents were deployed. It is anticipated that the military contingents will deploy in January 2017.

United Nations

A/71/595/Add.4

General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 December 2016

Original: English

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 134
Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered an advance version of the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council that contains the proposed resource requirements for 2017 for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) (A/71/365/Add.4). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 4 November 2016.

2. The main report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365) provides an overview of the proposed resource requirements for 2017 for 31 special political missions and related cross-cutting issues, while the five addenda to the main report cover the specific requirements for thematic clusters I to III and the two largest missions, UNAMA and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) (A/71/365/Add.1-5). The budget proposals of the Secretary-General for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen and the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi (both under cluster I), and the proposed budget for the United Nations Mission in Colombia (cluster III) are presented under separate addenda. The Advisory Committee's comments and recommendations on issues of a cross-cutting nature pertaining to all special political missions, including the Committee's

16-20329 (E) 051216

Please recycle

comments on the Kuwait Joint Support Office for thematic cluster III missions, are contained in the main report of the Committee (A/71/595). The comments and recommendations of the Committee regarding the budget proposals for thematic clusters I to III and UNAMA and UNAMI are presented in its related reports (A/71/595/Add.1-5).

3. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly approved a biennial provision of $1,124,400,000 net under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for 2016-2017 for special political missions (see resolution 70/249 A). A summary of the provision for the biennium is provided in annex I to the main report of the Secretary-General.

II. Resource utilization in 2016

4. The Secretary-General projects full utilization of the appropriation of $183,244,300 for UNAMA for 2016 (see A/71/365/Add.4, table 3). The projected overexpenditure under civilian personnel costs of $5,010,300 will be offset by projected underexpenditure of $4,910,100 under operational costs and $100,200 under military and police personnel costs.

5. Performance information for 2016 is set out in table 1 in the report of the Secretary-General. The report reflects the narrative information relating to the achievement of the various performance indicators, including details regarding: (a) whether the target will be achieved by the end of the reporting period; (b) the status of the achievement of the expected accomplishments for the period from January to May in the reporting period, including success factors or factors that may have had a negative impact on the achievement of planned results; and (c) the projected accomplishments to be achieved during the period from June to December 2016. Table 2 sets out expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and estimated performance measures for 2017 and targeted performance measures for 2017.

6. With respect to the results-based-budgeting frameworks, the Advisory Committee continues to note that a number of expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for UNAMA lack clarity and accuracy regarding what could or should be achieved by the Mission in relation to the mandates and related activities and that certain indicators of achievement or performance measures could be more precise. The Committee provides further comments and recommendations in this regard in its main report.

III. Resource requirements for 2017

A. Mandate and planning for 2017

7. The Advisory Committee recalls that UNAMA was established, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1401 (2002), for an initial period of 12 months. The mandate of the Mission was extended by subsequent resolutions of the Security Council, the most recent of which was resolution 2274 (2016), by which the Council decided to extend the mandate of UNAMA until 17 March 2017. The Secretary-

General indicates that Afghanistan continues to face significant political, security and economic challenges, which are expected to last into 2017. The Secretary-General also highlights the Government's efforts to pursue its reform agenda, including electoral reform and possible constitutional changes, and indicates that the progress made to date on electoral reform has been limited. In May 2016, a needs assessment mission was deployed to determine the assistance required by the Afghan electoral management bodies for the conduct of the elections.

8. The Mission's priorities and planning assumptions for 2017 are described in paragraphs 14 to 19 of the report. Specifically, the Secretary-General identifies ongoing country-specific challenges and related impact. As the prospects for a peace process in the short term have diminished, regional and wider international community support for economic development, the security sector and strengthened rule of law will be vital to fostering an environment conducive to good governance, sustainable development and human security. The Secretary-General indicates that, guided by the principles of Afghan sovereignty, leadership and ownership, the Mission will continue to focus on the provision of political support, the advancement of human rights and the promotion of coherent and coordinated support by the international community for the Government's national development strategy (ibid., para. 18). The Secretary-General also indicates that the security environment in Afghanistan is volatile and may deteriorate (ibid., para. 15), with limited progress made in advancing peace and reconciliation notwithstanding the renewed efforts to launch a peace process.

9. With respect to cooperation by UNAMA with other international civilian efforts in Afghanistan, the Secretary-General indicates that cooperation continues with other entities, including: the United Nations country team, in line with the 2015-2019 United Nations Development Assistance Framework and associated action plans to reinforce coherence, coordination, efficiency and alignment among its programmes and with the Government's national priority programmes; United Nations entities such as the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) (Da'esh) and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia; and non-United Nations entities, such as the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (ibid., paras. 10-13).

10. The Secretary-General also indicates that the Mission's field presence will continue to be critical to the implementation of the UNAMA mandate. Field offices will provide good offices support for local-level conflict management and resolution efforts, as well as any Afghan-led and owned peace and reconciliation initiatives; advocate, monitor and report on human rights issues; and provide the Mission's headquarters with reporting and analysis on mandate-related issues and emerging trends. In addition, the offices will continue to work with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to coordinate, facilitate and report on humanitarian needs and interventions and to negotiate humanitarian access.

B. Resource requirements

11. The proposed resource requirements for UNAMA for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017 amount to $170,166,900, reflecting a net decrease of $13,077,400, or 7.1 per cent, compared with the resources approved for 2016 (ibid., table 3). The variance is attributable mainly to: (a) the proposed net reduction of 57 civilian positions (ibid., table 6); and (b) net decreased requirements for operational costs, resulting mainly from: (i) net reductions under facilities and infrastructure due to reduced requirements for fuel for generators, offset in part by increased requirements for construction and alterations; (ii) reductions under ground transportation due to the reduction in the composition of the vehicle fleet and the reduced cost and use of fuel for vehicles; (iii) reductions under air transportation due to a change in the composition of the air fleet and reduced flying hours, resulting in lower requirements to cover the cost of the rental and operation of the air fleet; and (iv) net reductions under communications and information technology due to the reduced costs of commercial communications and support services, offset in part by the acquisition of equipment and spare parts and an increase in the cost of information technology services.

12. The Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that, in making its proposal for 2017, the Mission had endeavoured to ensure that the reduction in staffing did not have a negative impact on the security of staff, the mission premises or the implementation of the mandate. The Committee was also informed that components of the Mission had undergone a review in 2016 to establish minimum staffing requirements for the performance of mandated tasks, taking into account the prevailing environment, and that the exercise had resulted in the proposed net reduction of 57 positions. The Mission had also reviewed the staffing structure and vacancy rate of each of its organizational units, taking into account primarily the need and the justification for all positions in an organizational unit for the performance of activities, tasks and functions in support of mandate implementation.

1. Military and police personnel

13. The estimated requirements for military and police personnel for 2017 amount to $821,500, the same level of appropriation as that for 2016. Taking into account the estimated underexpenditure of $100,200, the net requirements for 2017 amount to $721,300 and reflect an unchanging number of military advisers (12) and police personnel (5) to be engaged with the Mission in 2017.

2. Civilian personnel

Table 1
Staffing requirements

	Positions	*Level*
Approved positions for 2016	1 618	1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 8 D-1, 28 P-5, 75 P-4, 75 P-3, 21 P-2, 164 FS, 1 GS (OL), 186 NPO, 977 LL, 79 UNV
Proposed positions for 2017	1 561	1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 8 D-1, 27 P-5, 72 P-4, 71 P-3, 18 P-2, 156 FS, 1 GS (OL), 172 NPO, 953 LL, 79 UNV
Proposed new positions	4	1 P-2, 2 NPO, 1 LL

	Positions (Level)	
Proposed abolishments	61	1 P-5, 3 P-4, 4 P-3, 4 P-2, 8 FS, 16 NPO, 25 LL
Proposed establishment (new functions) to regularize loaned positions[a]	58	2 P-3, 5 FS, 4 NPO, 29 LL, 18 UNV
Proposed abolishment to regularize loaned positions[a]	58	2 P-3, 5 FS, 4 NPO, 29 LL, 18 UNV

Abbreviations: USG, Under-Secretary-General; ASG, Assistant Secretary-General; FS, Field Service; GS (OL), General Service (Other level); LL, Local level; NPO, National Professional Officer; UNV, United Nations Volunteer.

[a] The proposed establishment of 58 loaned positions and abolishment of 58 loaned positions reflect changes to the functions and locations of the positions.

14. A summary of the staffing requirements and the proposed changes is contained in paragraphs 29 to 42 of the report of the Secretary-General. The total proposed staffing of 1,561 positions, including 357 international positions (200 Professional, 156 Field Service and 1 General Service (Other level)), 1,125 national positions (172 National Professional Officer and 953 Local level) and 79 United Nations Volunteer positions, represents a net reduction of 57 positions compared with the approved staffing for 2016 (ibid., table 4). Organization charts showing the proposed staffing grades and levels are contained in annex I to the report. The proposed allocation of the positions by location is reflected in table 7 and paragraphs 38 to 40 of the report, and is summarized as follows:

(a) UNAMA headquarters in Kabul (873 positions);

(b) Six regional offices (411 positions);

(c) Six provincial offices (220 positions);

(d) UNAMA Support Office in Kuwait and the Kuwait Joint Support Office (42 positions) (see paras. 20-26 below);

(e) Liaison offices in Islamabad and Tehran (10 positions);

(f) Backstopping at Headquarters (5 positions).

15. The Secretary-General indicates that the proposed staffing changes include the proposal to modify the approved staffing table in line with the actual deployment of positions on the ground, resulting in the "regularization" of what were intended to be positions loaned temporarily to other organizational units. He also indicates that, following a comprehensive review of the overall staffing requirements in 2016, the Mission identified the temporary staffing arrangements that are expected to continue beyond 2016 and are thus no longer temporary, and proposes that those positions be retained in the organizational units where they are currently located, rather than in the areas for which they were originally approved in the staffing table. The proposal for a new staffing table reflects 184 existing positions, as well as a net reduction of 57 positions, as detailed in table 6. The proposed changes include: (a) the abolishment of 61 positions (12 Professional, 8 Field Service, 16 National Professional Officer and 25 Local level) (ibid., tables 6 and 7); (b) the establishment of 1 Local level position in the Air Operations Section in Kabul, 1 Professional

position in the Nangarhar (Jalalabad) regional office and 2 National Professional Officer positions (1 in the Office of the Resident Coordinator/United Nations Country Team Unit and 1 in the Property Management Section to be located in Kabul) (ibid., table 6); and (c) the proposed establishment of 58 positions within diverse headquarters, regional and provincial office locations to regularize those positions originally intended to be temporary loan arrangements.

16. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the "regularization" of the 184 loaned positions (initially loaned to respond to critical temporary operational needs) would entail the redeployment of 126 positions and the establishment of 58 positions, with the concurrent reassignment of the 58 positions to new functions.[1] The Secretary-General identifies the three functional areas within which the inward and outward movements of the 184 staff will take place (ibid., table 5), as follows:

Summary of proposed changes to regularize temporary loan arrangements

Functional area	*Inward movements*	*Outward movements*	*Net change*
Substantive	67	(65)	2
Security	49	(46)	3
Mission support	68	(73)	(5)
Total	**184**	**(184)**	–

Upon further enquiry, the Committee was informed that the rationale for regularizing all temporary loan arrangements was based on the realignment of the Mission's staffing component, including the classification of all positions. The Committee was also informed that the implementation of Umoja human resources functionalities required that the staffing table in the organizational management module of Umoja correctly reflect the actual utilization of positions on the ground. In addition, the Committee was informed upon enquiry that heads of missions had discretion to temporarily redeploy or reassign positions in cases of unforeseen critical operational requirements but that such arrangements were valid only within the limits of a specific financial period, at which point the position that had been temporarily redeployed or reassigned should be returned to its original organizational unit. However, if the requirement for the position exceeded one fiscal period, the temporary arrangement was expected to be formally submitted for consideration and approval by the intergovernmental bodies in the context of the next proposed budget.

17. Finally, on the basis of information provided upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee notes that a high number of the posts on loan were on loan for more than two years. The Committee recognizes that the proposal is linked to measures aimed at realigning the Mission's human resources and that the staffing table must be

[1] The term "redeployment" refers to action taken to ensure immediate mandate implementation whereby the functions of the position proposed for redeployment would cover comparable or related functions that fall within the same job family as defined by the Office of Human Resources Management. In comparison, "reassignment" refers to the assignment of a position to a new function.

accurately reflected in Umoja, given the impact on financial reporting, fund allocation and personnel administration. Nevertheless, the Committee notes that the proposed staffing changes are primarily an Umoja-driven data-cleansing effort for UNAMA staff.

18. **The Advisory Committee is concerned about the high number of loan arrangements and expresses regret that the necessary adjustments to the staffing table were not made on an annual basis within the context of the budget process, given the long-standing existence of many temporary positions, and that these movements of staff were not reported for an extensive period of time. The Committee also regrets that insufficient information was provided on the occurrence of loan arrangements in other special political missions and that the relevant intergovernmental bodies were not made aware of the actual deployments of staff and, as a result, examined staffing tables that did not reflect the actual deployments. The Committee expects that the normal process for proposed staffing adjustments relating to posts reflecting established rules and practices will be followed and appropriately justified in the future. The Committee provides further comments and recommendations in this regard in its main report (A/71/595).**

19. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the Secretary-General's staffing proposals for UNAMA subject to its comments above.**

UNAMA Support Office in Kuwait and Kuwait Joint Support Office

20. Information on the cost-sharing arrangements and collaboration in support areas with respect to the Kuwait Joint Support Office financed under the budget for UNAMA is provided in paragraphs 160 to 171 of the report of the Secretary-General. The resource requirements for the component of the Office financed under the budget for UNAMI are contained in the budget estimates for UNAMI (see A/71/365/Add.5).

21. The Secretary-General proposes staffing changes for the Kuwait Joint Support Office for UNAMA from the current 40 to 39 positions, as follows:

(a) Abolishment of 1 position of Finance Assistant (Field Service) in the Finance Section;

(b) Abolishment of 1 position of Human Resources Assistant (Field Service) in the Human Resources Section;

(c) Redeployment of 1 position of Information Systems Assistant (Field Service) from the Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies Section to the Kuwait Joint Support Office Human Resources Section.

22. The Secretary-General also proposes a reduction from nine to three positions for the UNAMA Support Office in Kuwait, as follows:

(a) Abolishment of 1 position of Information Systems Assistant (Local level) in the Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies Section;

(b) Abolishment of 2 positions of Driver (Local level) in the Surface Transportation Section;

(c) Outward redeployment of 1 position of Information Systems Assistant (Field Service) from the Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies Section to the Kuwait Joint Support Office Human Resources Section;

(d) Outward redeployment of 1 position of Information Systems Assistant (Field Service) from the Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies Section in Kuwait to the Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies Section in Kabul;

(e) Outward redeployment of 1 position of Information Systems Assistant (Field Service) to the regional office in Balkh (Mazar-e-Sharif).

23. The three remaining staff in the UNAMA Support Office in Kuwait are part of the Integrated Conduct and Discipline Unit (1 P-5 position) and the Security Section (1 Field Service position and 1 Local level position) and will continue to report directly to their respective section chiefs located in Kabul (ibid, para. 160), thereby maintaining distinct reporting lines and accountability within UNAMA.

24. The Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that, of the 72 positions proposed for 2017 located within the Kuwait Joint Support Office, 39 would be funded by UNAMA and 33 by UNAMI, with 7 to be dedicated to payroll processing (see the annex to the present report; see also A/71/365/Add.4, table 12). With respect to the provision of transactional support in the area of finance, the Secretary-General indicates in his main report that the Department of Field Support, under an interim arrangement, is processing payroll from the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe and the Kuwait Joint Support Office to address the operational needs with respect to the roll-out of Umoja cluster 5 (see A/71/365, paras. 99-102). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that there was therefore a requirement to increase the number of staff supporting the payroll functions located at the Kuwait Joint Support Office to a total of 18 through the redeployment of positions from field missions.

25. **The Advisory Committee continues to note the lack of clarity with regard to the structures, functions and capacity of the UNAMA Support Office in Kuwait and the Kuwait Joint Support Office. In this connection, the Committee continues to question the ongoing validity of maintaining separate structures in Kuwait with distinct reporting lines and accountabilities to UNAMA in view of the above-noted staffing proposals (see A/69/628/Add.2, para. 25, and A/70/7/Add.14, paras. 24-26).**

26. **The Advisory Committee provides its comments and recommendations regarding the Kuwait Joint Support Office and other staffing structures in Kuwait in its main report on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/71/595).**

3. Operational costs

27. The estimated requirements for operational costs for 2017 amount to $57,426,700, reflecting a decrease of $6,499,000, or 10.2 per cent, compared with the approved amount for 2016. The reduction in facilities and infrastructure costs of $2,727,000 and in air transportation costs of $3,287,000 account for the majority of the decrease. **Subject to its comments and recommendation below, the Advisory**

Committee recommends the approval of the Secretary-General's proposals relating to operational requirements.

Security services

28. In annex II to the report of the Secretary-General, it is indicated that the full estimated cost of security for 2017 is $41,906,400, including the cost of 102 international positions, 403 national positions and 3 United Nations Volunteer positions. Specifically, the provision for security services listed under facilities and infrastructure in the proposed budget is estimated at $10,920,100 for 2017. This includes the deployment of private security armed guards in Kabul and the UNAMA field offices ($7,229,400), the Mission's share of the cost of armed static guards provided by the Afghan Directorate of Protection and Security ($1,459,200) and the Mission's portion of the cost-shared budget of the Department of Safety and Security administered by the United Nations Development Programme ($786,000) (see A/71/365/Add.4, para. 235 (e)).

29. In section II, paragraph 2, of its resolution 69/274 B, the General Assembly decided that the budgetary presentation relating to the provision of security services required improvement, including the provision of sufficient detailed information thereon and, more specifically, clear information relating to contractual personnel provided by private security firms and details on how the release of supplies in support of such personnel was authorized and accounted for (see A/69/628/Add.2, paras. 42 and 43). In its resolution 70/248 A, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that detailed information relating to the resource requirements for security services be provided (see A/70/7/Add.14, para. 33). During its current deliberations, the Committee once more requested and was provided with a detailed breakdown of the proposed security services, including the number and location of guards and the total costs per category and time period. **The Advisory Committee stresses the need for greater transparency and that sufficient information should be provided in future budget submissions. The Committee reiterates its request that detailed information relating to the resource requirements in respect of security services be included in future budget submissions for UNAMA.**

Consultants

30. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that the requirements for consultants ($205,900) reflect: the engagement of consultants for the provision of technical and specialized expertise with respect to non-training activities carried out to support substantive areas of the Mission ($74,800); and training activities for mission personnel ($131,100) (see A/71/365/Add.4, para. 228). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the non-training activities related to the facilitation of dialogue and mediation interventions ($43,400), electoral risk analysis ($20,700) and the preparation of staff to provide support for electoral policy and operations ($10,700). **The Advisory Committee reiterates its view that, while the use of external consultants may be necessary to acquire specialized expertise not readily available in-house, reliance on the use of external consultants should be kept to an absolute minimum and that UNAMA should build and use its in-house capacity. Therefore, the Committee recommends a 10 per cent reduction of resources, in the amount of $20,590.**

Ground transportation

31. The provision for ground transportation is estimated at $1,588,600 and reflects the requirements for the ground transportation fleet of the Mission, which comprises 284 vehicles, including 238 passenger vehicles (all armoured except for 15 that are soft-skin) and 46 other vehicles (3 4x4 armoured vehicles for the operational reserve, 17 trucks, 9 material-handling equipment vehicles, 2 tractors, 11 ambulances, 2 cargo vans, 1 mine-hardened RG-32 vehicle and 1 medium bus) (ibid., para. 238). The Committee was informed upon enquiry that, in terms of staff entitlement to the use of an official vehicle, United Nations staff at the D-1 level and above were entitled to have an allocated vehicle and that this policy was implemented at UNAMA using armoured 4x4 vehicles. The Committee was also informed that, owing to the prevailing security environment, UNAMA did not distribute 4x4 vehicles on the basis of standard ratios; that national staff drove UNAMA vehicles; that only a few international staff were issued driver permits, which were justified by exceptional functions or the delivery of services such as security and movement control; and that the majority of armoured passenger vehicles were operated centrally by Transport Dispatch using national drivers.

Energy projects

32. The provision of $29,014,900 (ibid., para. 235) reflects requirements for facilities and infrastructure with respect to alterations, renovation and construction services, of which $700,000 is proposed for architectural and demolition services (ibid., para. 235 (h)). The Committee was informed upon enquiry that the amount of $700,000 was for the partial shifting of electrical power generation from fossil fuel to solar power at one field office, which was a project being implemented under the direction of the Department of Field Support at all field missions with the aim of achieving a 50 per cent reduction in the carbon footprint by 2020. The Committee was also informed that, following a survey of UNAMA compounds conducted by the Engineering Standardization and Design Centre in Brindisi, the reduction of the carbon footprint at four field office compounds, namely, Balkh (Mazar-e-Sharif), Nangarhar (Jalalabad), Kandahar and Bamyan, was recommended. As a result, it was proposed that the first carbon footprint reduction project be implemented at the regional office in Balkh (Mazar-e-Sharif). The cost of the project was estimated at $700,000, including the installation of a solar power generation system of 150kW capacity, with recovery of the investment projected in 7.7 years. **The Advisory Committee encourages UNAMA to continue its efforts aimed at minimizing its environmental footprint. The Committee welcomes the environmental initiative and recommends that UNAMA provide a cost/benefit analysis of the solar power project, including the costs to be incurred, the savings envisaged and the estimated payback or investment recovery period over the life of the field office project.**

Information technology

33. In his report, the Secretary-General cites requirements of $2,700,700 for information technology with respect to: the replacement of laptops and network equipment ($302,300); the acquisition, support and maintenance of software applications and enterprise licences ($677,700); the provision of centralized

information technology services to the Mission's headquarters in Kabul and to all field offices, and centralized data storage services to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, as well as uninterrupted power supply maintenance support ($1,352,900); and spare parts and supplies ($367,800). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the Mission had acquired laptops in 2013 and 2015 with relatively low-power processors, which had proved to have performance difficulties in processing the expanding range of United Nations enterprise applications in addition to the legacy and local applications. In 2016, the Mission had acquired laptops with higher-power processors to mitigate the previous performance issues. **The Advisory Committee trusts that adequate procurement plans for purchasing technologically appropriate equipment in line with the guidelines issued by the Office of Information and Communications Technology will be established and adhered to in the future.**

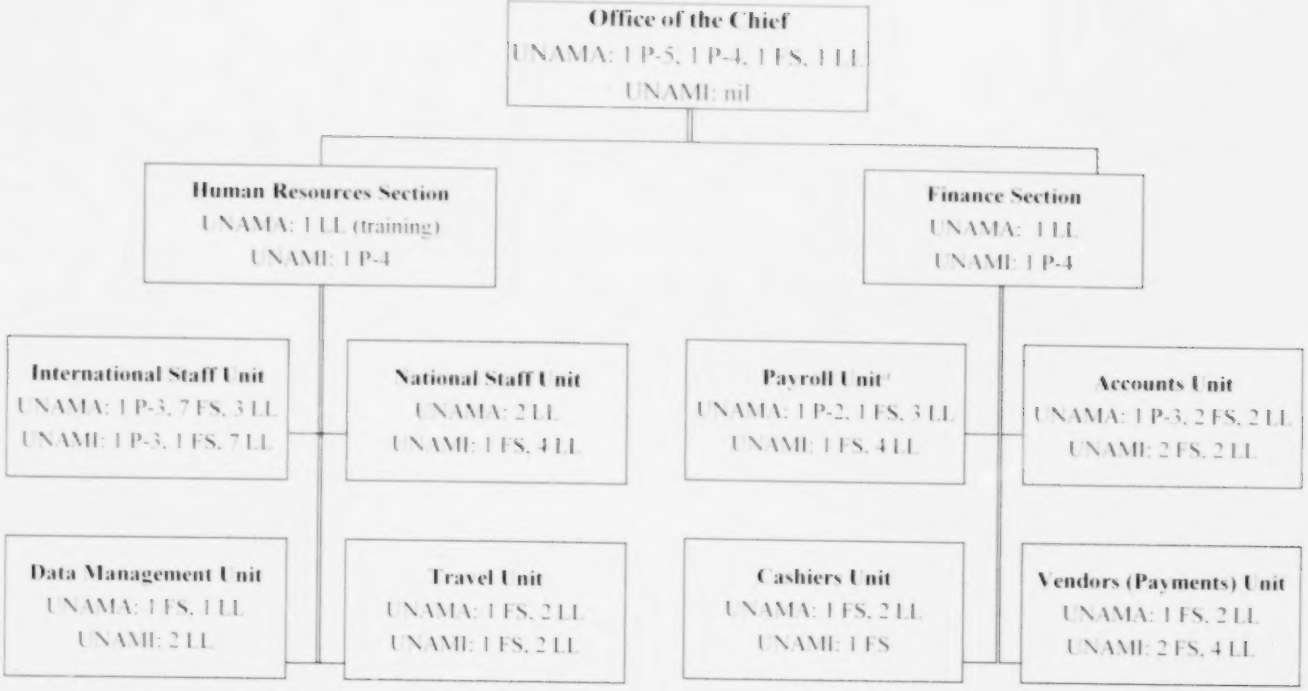
IV. Recommendation

34. **Subject to its comments and recommendations above, as well as the comments and recommendations contained in its main report (A/71/595), the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the Secretary-General's proposal for the resource requirements for 2017 for UNAMA.**

Annex

Kuwait Joint Support Office

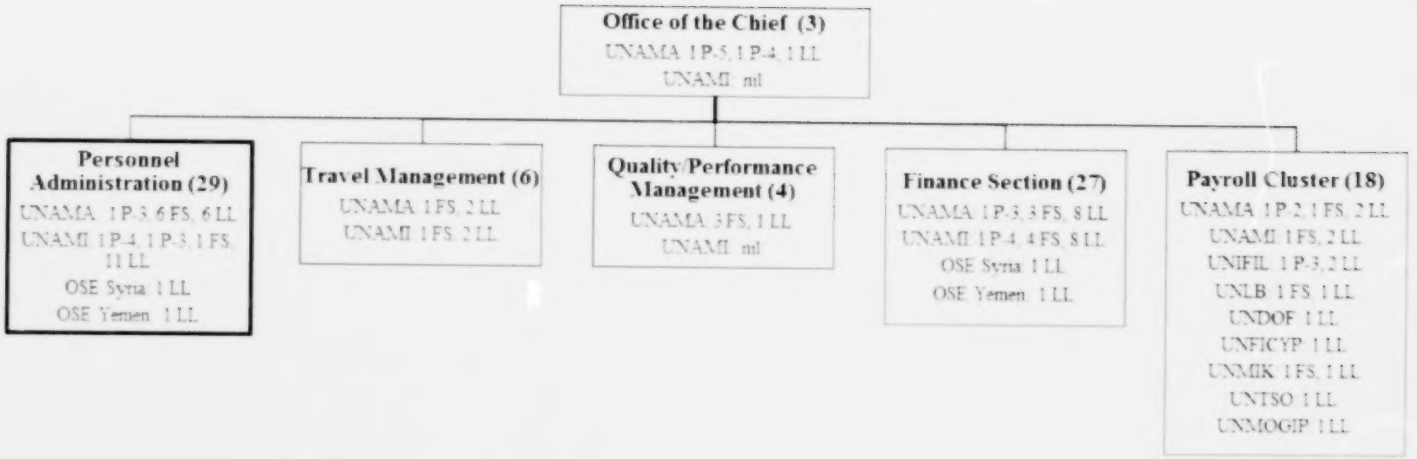
A. Approved staffing level for 2016


Office of the Chief
UNAMA: 1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 FS, 1 LL
UNAMI: nil
Human Resources Section
UNAMA: 1 LL (training)
UNAMI: 1 P-4
Finance Section
UNAMA: 1 LL
UNAMI: 1 P-4
International Staff Unit
UNAMA: 1 P-3, 7 FS, 3 LL
UNAMI: 1 P-3, 1 FS, 7 LL
National Staff Unit
UNAMA: 2 LL
UNAMI: 1 FS, 4 LL
Payroll Unit[a]
UNAMA: 1 P-2, 1 FS, 3 LL
UNAMI: 1 FS, 4 LL
Accounts Unit
UNAMA: 1 P-3, 2 FS, 2 LL
UNAMI: 2 FS, 2 LL
Data Management Unit
UNAMA: 1 FS, 1 LL
UNAMI: 2 LL
Travel Unit
UNAMA: 1 FS, 2 LL
UNAMI: 1 FS, 2 LL
Cashiers Unit
UNAMA: 1 FS, 2 LL
UNAMI: 1 FS
Vendors (Payments) Unit
UNAMA: 1 FS, 2 LL
UNAMI: 2 FS, 4 LL

Abbreviations: FS, Field Service; LL, Local level.

[a] Seven of the 10 positions in the Payroll Unit are responsible for processing payroll, the other 3 positions are responsible for processing travel claims.

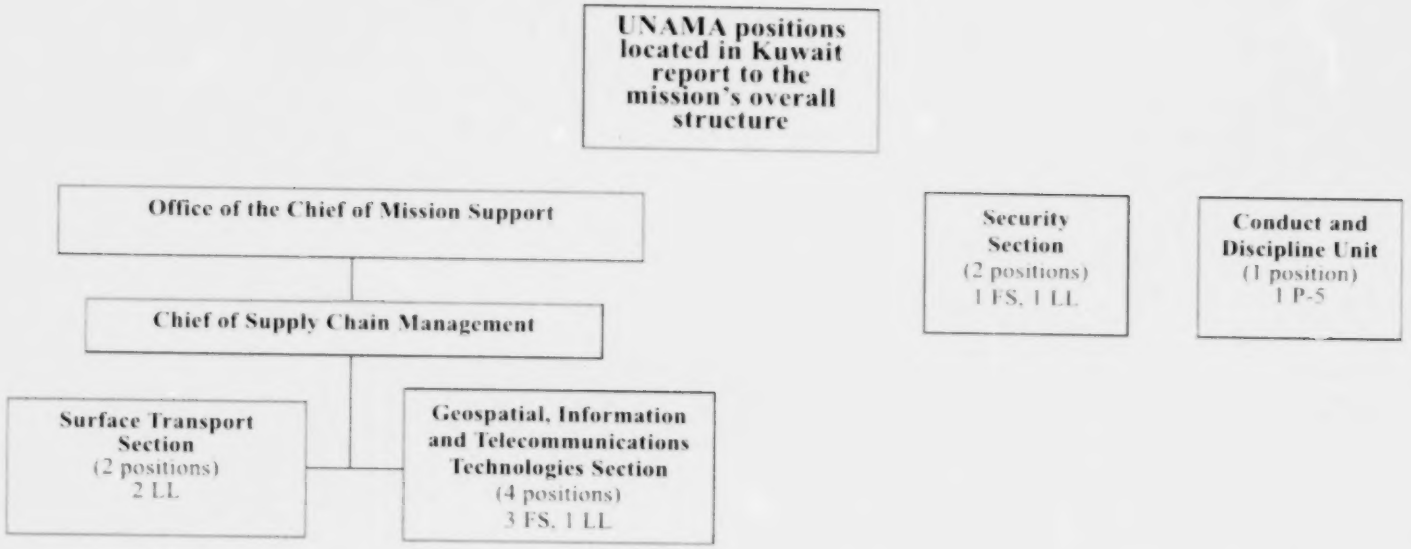
B. Proposed staffing level for 2017


Office of the Chief (3)
UNAMA: 1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 LL
UNAMI: nil
Personnel Administration (29)
UNAMA: 1 P-3, 6 FS, 6 LL
UNAMI: 1 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 FS, 11 LL
OSE Syria: 1 LL
OSE Yemen: 1 LL
Travel Management (6)
UNAMA: 1 FS, 2 LL
UNAMI: 1 FS, 2 LL
Quality/Performance Management (4)
UNAMA: 3 FS, 1 LL
UNAMI: nil
Finance Section (27)
UNAMA: 1 P-3, 3 FS, 8 LL
UNAMI: 1 P-4, 4 FS, 8 LL
OSE Syria: 1 LL
OSE Yemen: 1 LL
Payroll Cluster (18)
UNAMA: 1 P-2, 1 FS, 2 LL
UNAMI: 1 FS, 2 LL
UNIFIL: 1 P-3, 2 LL
UNLB: 1 FS, 1 LL
UNDOF: 1 LL
UNFICYP: 1 LL
UNMIK: 1 FS, 1 LL
UNTSO: 1 LL
UNMOGIP: 1 LL

Abbreviations: FS, Field Service; LL, Local level; OSE Syria, Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria; OSE Yemen, Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen; UNDOF, United Nations Disengagement Observer Force; UNFICYP, United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus; UNIFIL, United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon; UNLB, United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy; UNMIK, United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo; UNMOGIP, United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan; UNTSO, United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

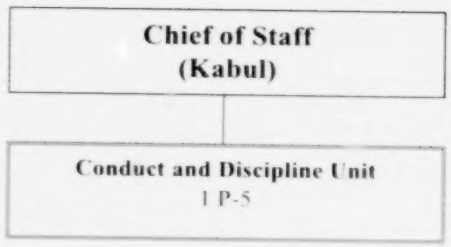
UNAMA Support Office in Kuwait

A. Approved staffing level for 2016



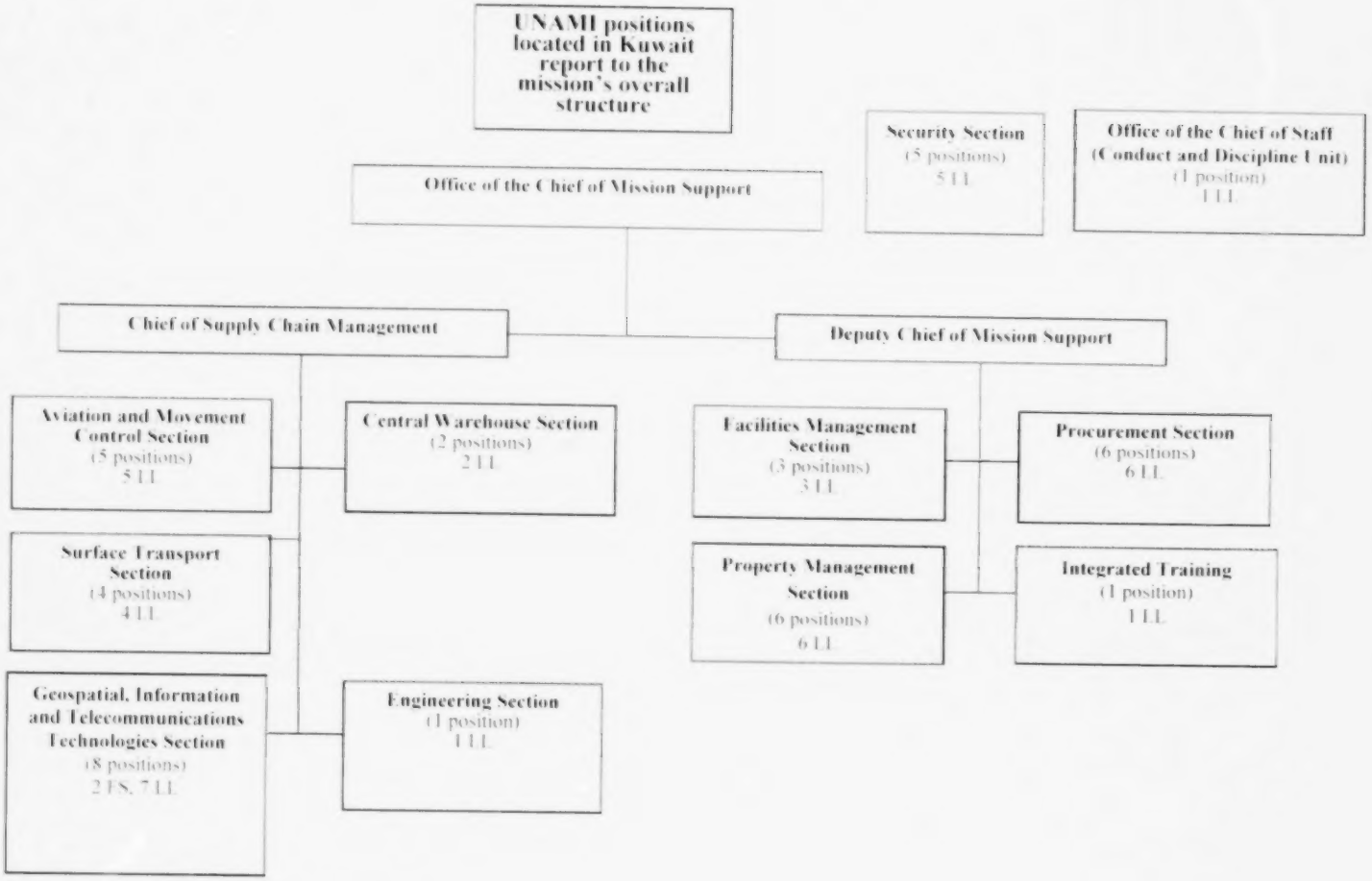
Abbreviations: FS, Field Service; LL, Local level

B. Proposed staffing level for 2017



UNAMI offices in Kuwait

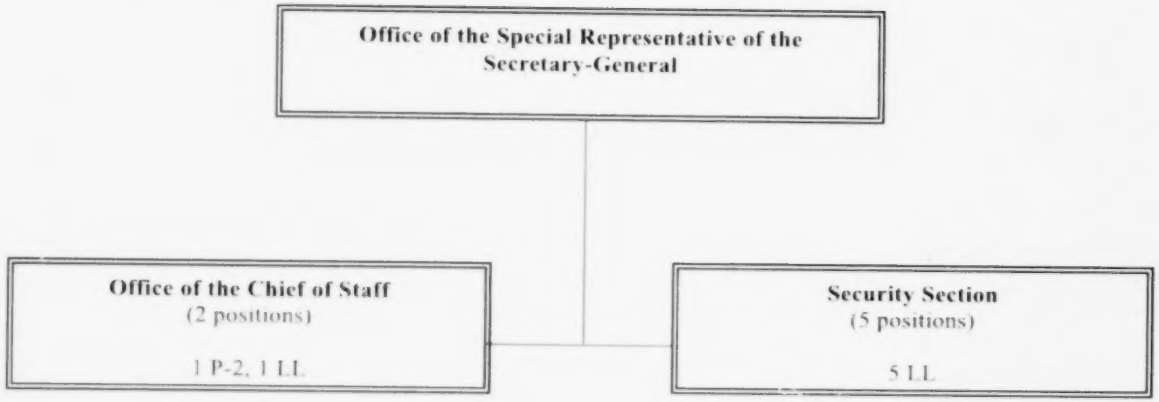
Approved staffing level for 2016



Abbreviations: FS, Field Service; LL, Local level.

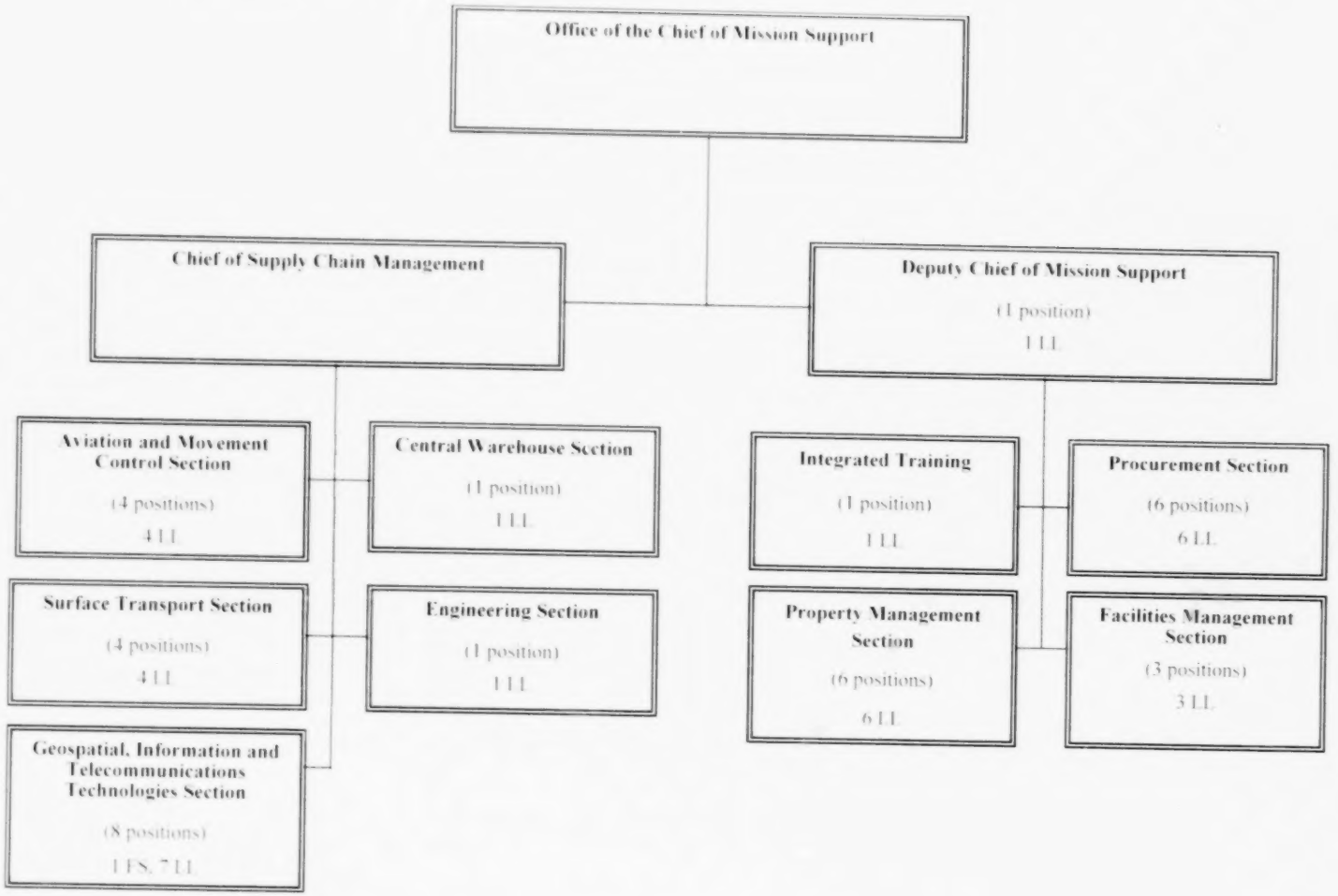
UNAMI substantive offices in Kuwait

Proposed staffing level for 2017



UNAMI administrative offices in Kuwait

Proposed staffing level for 2017



United Nations A/71/595/Add.5

General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 December 2016

Original: English

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 134
Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered an advance version of the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council that contains the proposed resource requirements for 2017 for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) (A/71/365/Add.5). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 29 November 2016.

2. The main report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365) provides an overview of the proposed resource requirements for 2017 for 31 special political missions and related cross-cutting issues. Five addenda to the main report cover the specific requirements for thematic clusters I to III and the two largest missions, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and UNAMI (A/71/365/Add.1-5). The budget proposals of the Secretary-General for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen and the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi (both under cluster I), and the proposed budget for the United Nations Mission in Colombia (cluster III) are presented under separate addenda. The Advisory Committee's comments and recommendations of a cross-cutting nature pertaining to all special political missions are contained in the main report of the

16-20638 (E) 051216

Please recycle

Committee (A/71/595). This includes the Committee's comments on the Kuwait Joint Support Office for thematic cluster III missions, while the comments and recommendations of the Committee regarding the budget proposals for thematic clusters I to III, UNAMA and UNAMI are presented in its related reports (A/71/595/Add.1-5).

3. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly approved a biennial provision of $1,124,400,000 net under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 for special political missions (see resolution 70/249 A). A summary of the provision for the biennium is provided in annex I to the main report of the Secretary-General.

II. Resource utilization in the biennium 2016-2017

4. Sections I and II of the report of the Secretary-General provide an overview of the resource requirements for UNAMI for 2017, including planning assumptions and priorities for 2017 and projected performance information for 2016 (see A/71/365/Add.5, paras. 1-62). Table 1 provides a breakdown of the estimated expenditure of the Mission for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016 and the projected requirements for 2017.

Table 1
United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq: total resource requirements (net)
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January-31 December 2016			*Requirements for 1 January-31 December 2017*				
Category	*Appropriation* (1)	*Estimated expenditure* (2)	*Variance* (3)=(1)-(2)	*Appropriation 2016* (4)=(1)	*Total requirements* (5)	*Non-recurrent requirements* (6)	*Variance (2017-2016)* (7)=(5)-(4)	*Net requirements for 2017*[a] (8)=(5)-(6)
Military and police personnel costs	8 581.4	7 988.2	593.2	8 581.4	8 287.0	–	(294.4)	7 693.8
Civilian personnel costs	79 740.9	80 982.7	(1 241.8)	79 740.9	80 976.7	–	1 235.8	82 218.5
Operational costs	31 221.5	29 452.0	1 769.5	31 221.5	28 168.3	–	(3 053.2)	26 398.8
Total	**119 543.8**	**118 422.9**	**1 120.9**	**119 543.8**	**117 432.0**	**–**	**(2 111.8)**	**116 311.1**

[a] Net requirements after taking into account the estimated underexpenditure or overexpenditure for 2016.

5. With respect to the results-based-budgeting frameworks, the Advisory Committee continues to note that a number of expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for UNAMI lack clarity and accuracy regarding what could or should be achieved by the Mission in relation to the mandates and related activities, and that certain indicators of achievement or performance measures could be more precise. The Committee provides further comments and recommendations in this regard in its main report (A/71/595).

6. Explanations with respect to table 1 are contained in paragraphs 229 to 265 of the report of the Secretary-General. The projected net underexpenditure for 2016 of $1.12 million, or 1 per cent, comprises:

(a) Lower-than-budgeted requirements for military and police personnel ($593,200), attributable mainly to the lower contractual rates for rations arising from the award of a new contract and to the reduced requirement under freight and deployment of contingent-owned equipment;

(b) Higher-than-budgeted overall expenditure for civilian personnel ($1,241,800), attributable mainly to a lower vacancy rate than projected for National Professional Officers and Local level staff, as well as a higher dependency allowance, effective 1 January 2016;

(c) Lower-than-budgeted requirements under operational costs ($1,769,500), inter alia, in connection with lower expenditures under: (i) official travel ($260,600), attributable mainly to lower training-related travel requirements, with most training conducted within the Mission, offset in part by increased official travel necessitated by regional developments; (ii) facilities and infrastructure ($2,579,200), attributable mainly to lower maintenance costs and reduced contract prices, offset in part by increased costs for utility and waste disposal services; and (iii) communications ($14,500), attributable to lower requirements for public information services, offset by increased requirements for spare parts. The aforementioned lower requirements are offset by higher requirements under: (i) ground transportation ($81,300), mainly attributable to the replacement of armoured glass for UNAMI vehicles; and (ii) air transportation ($1,096,000), resulting from the addition of one rotary-wing aircraft held in standby for emergency evacuation of staff in case of the collapse of the Mosul Dam.

III. Mandate and resource requirements for 2017

A. Mandate and planning

7. The Mission's planning assumptions for 2017, as well as its strategies and plans, are set out in paragraphs 39 to 56 of the report of the Secretary-General. It is indicated, inter alia, that if the formation of a government able and willing to promote genuine and meaningful reforms, and also aimed at combating corruption, continues to be delayed, the resulting popular discontent and reduced public institutional delivery could affect the Mission's planning assumptions for 2017. The Secretary-General further states that it is assumed that the Mission's efforts will continue to be affected by an unpredictable security environment for the foreseeable future and that, over the past two years, the exposure of United Nations personnel in Iraq to identified threats has increased. The Secretary-General also indicates that the Mission will work with the United Nations country team, in particular with the United Nations Development Programme, with respect to electoral assistance, including for the Provincial Council elections in the first half of 2017; the Council of Representatives elections in the first half of 2018; the elections to the Kurdistan regional parliament by the second half of 2017; and the finalization of the selection process for a new Board of Commissioners of the Electoral Commission by 2017 by the Council of Representatives, in close consultation with UNAMI.

8. In addition, the Secretary-General indicates that UNAMI will continue its activities with respect to the promotion of peacebuilding and State-building and its high-level political engagement. As part of the Mission's efforts at broadening the national reconciliation discussion, the Secretary-General states that UNAMI intends to open an office in Najaf, comprising six staff (1 P-4, 3 National Professional Officers and 2 Local level). With respect to State-building, the Secretary-General indicates that UNAMI will continue to use its good offices to assist Iraqi stakeholders and will continue to facilitate relations between the federal Government and the Kurdistan regional government and encourage the parties to fulfil their oil and revenue-sharing agreement of 2014.

B. Resource requirements

9. As shown in table 1, the proposed resources in the amount of $117,432,000 for 2017 for UNAMI represent an overall decrease of $2,111,800, or 1.8 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2016 and are attributable to decreased requirements of $294,400 under military and police personnel and $3,053,200 under operational costs, offset by higher requirements of $1,235,800 for civilian personnel. Details relating to the proposed resource requirements for 2017 are explained in paragraphs 229 to 265 of the report of the Secretary-General.

1. Military and police personnel

10. The estimated requirements for military and police personnel for 2017 amount to $8.28 million, reflecting a decrease of $294,400, or 3.49 per cent, compared with the approved resources for 2016. The proposed resources would provide for the deployment of 245 United Nations Guard Unit personnel, unchanged from the previous year. The Secretary-General indicates that the variance between the 2017 requirements and the 2016 approved budget is attributable to revised contract rates for rations, offset in part by the increased standard rate of reimbursement of military personnel, effective 1 July 2017.

2. Civilian personnel

11. The approved staffing requirements for 2016 and the proposals of the Secretary-General for 2017 are summarized in table 2.

Table 2
United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq: staffing requirements

	Positions	*Level*
Approved positions for 2016	873	1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 6 D-1, 17 P-5, 57 P-4, 54 P-3, 8 P-2, 210 FS, 116 NPO, 401 LL
Proposed positions for 2017	858	1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 6 D-1, 16 P-5, 57 P-4, 53 P-3, 8 P-2, 207 FS, 114 NPO, 393 LL
Proposed new positions	1	1 P-2
Proposed redeployments	17	2 P-5, 2 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2, 6 FS, 2 NPO, 3 LL

	Positions	*Level*
Proposed reclassifications	1	1 FS to LL
Proposed abolishments	16	1 P-5, 1 P-3, 1 P-2, 2 FS, 2 NPO, 9 LL

Abbreviations: USG, Under-Secretary-General; ASG, Assistant Secretary-General; FS, Field Service; NPO, National Professional Officer; LL, Local level.

12. The proposed staffing requirements for 2017 consist of 858 positions, comprising 351 international staff (144 in the Professional and higher categories and 207 Field Service) and 507 national staff (114 National Professional Officer and 393 Local level). The staffing requirements for 2017 reflect a net decrease of 15 positions (representing the abolishment of 3 Professional, 2 Field Service, 2 National Professional Officer and 9 Local level positions and the establishment of 1 P-2 position) compared with the approved level of 873 positions for 2016. Detailed information on the staffing requirements are contained in tables 2 and 3 and paragraphs 63 to 228 of the report of the Secretary-General.

13. Tables 4 and 5 of the report of the Secretary-General provide information on the proposed establishment of 1 new position (1 P-2) and the abolishment of 16 positions (1 P-5, 1 P-3, 1 P-2, 2 Field Service, 2 National Professional Officer and 9 Local level).

14. The Secretary-General proposes to abolish one position of Associate Programme Management Officer (P-2) in the Programme and Planning Unit in the Office of the Chief of Staff in Baghdad and, in turn, establish one new position of Associate Conduct and Discipline Officer (P-2), also under that Office but located in Kuwait, to strengthen the capacity and improve the responsiveness on matters related to conduct and discipline for the Mission (see A/71/365/Add.5, paras. 81-83). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the proposed new Associate Conduct and Discipline Officer would support the Chief, Integrated Conduct and Discipline Unit, with a strong emphasis on UNAMI-related matters, in ensuring that the new accountability framework on conduct and discipline is properly implemented and adequately supported.

15. The Secretary-General proposes the abolishment of two positions from the staffing complement of the Kuwait Joint Support Office, namely, one position of Human Resources Assistant (Field Service), as the functions related to the recruitment of national staff were transferred to the Mission, effective April 2016 (ibid., para. 224), and one position of Finance Assistant (Field Service) in support of efforts to achieve greater efficiency gains, with the aim of reducing the required resources but at the same time maintaining and/or increasing the productivity and efficiency of services provided to client missions (ibid., para. 228).

16. The Secretary-General also proposes the abolishment of 13 positions that have remained vacant for 18 months or more, as follows:

(a) Public Information Office: two positions of Public Information Officer (National Professional Officer) in Baghdad (ibid., para. 130);

(b) Security Section: one position of Security Assistant (Local level) in Baghdad, one position of Security Assistant (Local level) in Erbil, two positions of

Fire Security Assistant (Local level) in Basra and Kirkuk and one position of Security Coordination Officer (P-3) in Baghdad (ibid., para. 142);

(c) Office of the Chief of Mission Support: one position of Senior Project Officer (P-5) and one position of Administrative Assistant (Local level) (ibid., para. 152);

(d) Human Resources Section: one position of Human Resources Assistant (Local level) in Baghdad (ibid., para. 163);

(e) Procurement Section: one position of Procurement Assistant (Local level) (ibid., para. 175);

(f) Surface Transport Section: one position of Driver (Local level) in Erbil and one position of Vehicle Technician (Local level) in Baghdad (ibid., para. 203).

17. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the security situation in Iraq remains volatile and unpredictable. The Committee was also informed that, specifically with respect to security staffing, the reductions proposed for 2017 will have a negative impact in terms of the ability of UNAMI to conduct field assessments, advisories, coordination and operations support to the United Nations programmes and activities and that it may therefore be advisable to reinstate some security positions in the UNAMI budget. On the other hand, the Committee was also informed, upon further enquiry, that the vacancies of 18 months or more of the five above-mentioned security-related positions have not affected the work of maintaining the security of the Mission and its personnel in the current security situation. **The Advisory Committee trusts that this issue will be clarified further to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

18. With respect to the proposed abolishment of a total of 11 national positions (2 National Professional Officer and 9 Local level), the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that it was the policy of UNAMI to retain national staff and to only abolish positions whose functions are no longer required. **In this connection, the Advisory Committee reiterates its recommendation that the Secretary-General undertake efforts to strengthen the Mission's national staffing complement, whenever appropriate, by nationalizing positions, considering the availability of qualified individuals in the local labour market (see also A/70/7/Add.15, para. 19).**

19. As indicated in paragraph 8 above, the Secretary-General proposes to establish a new office in Najaf, comprising six staff (1 P-4, 3 National Professional Officer and 2 Local level) through the redeployment of:

(a) One position of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) from the Office of the Chief of Political Affairs in Baghdad, to serve as Head of Office, and one position of Language Assistant (Local level) from the Office of Political Affairs in Basra (see A/71/365/Add.5, paras. 93, 95, 102, 103 and 105);

(b) One position of Human Rights Officer (National Professional Officer), from the Human Rights Office in Baghdad, to facilitate civil society and government authorities in the south central governorates in the areas of human rights and the rule of law (ibid., paras. 120 and 122);

(c) One position of Security Assistant (Local level) from the Security Section in Baghdad to assist with security support and to liaise with local officials on staff safety and security matters (ibid., paras. 140 (d) and (e) (i) and 143).

The Advisory Committee notes that a further two positions, one of Humanitarian Affairs Officer (National Professional Officer) in the Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Development and Humanitarian Affairs and one of Governorate Liaison Officer (National Professional Officer) for Najaf have been included under the resource requirements for 2016 (see A/70/348/Add.5, paras. 50 and 97).

20. The Secretary-General indicates that the Office of Supply Chain Management and Service Delivery includes the Central Warehouse Section, following a merger with the Acquisition Management Section, which was aimed at consolidating the processes of planning, acquisition of life support and major supply items, warehousing and inventory, and asset management. The Secretary-General also indicates that information on efficiencies achieved and lessons learned as a result of the merger is under discussion in the Department of Field Support (see A/71/365/Add.5, annex I, and A/70/7/Add.15, paras. 20 and 21). **The Advisory Committee reiterates its request that information on the efficiencies achieved and lessons learned as a result of the aforementioned merger be included in the Secretary-General's next report on UNAMI (see A/70/7/Add.15, para. 21). The Committee requested, but did not receive, an organization chart of the Office of Supply Chain Management and Service Delivery showing staffing and related lines of responsibility vis-à-vis the various locations, and trusts that such information will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

21. **Subject to its comments and recommendations in the paragraphs above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the Secretary-General's staffing proposals for UNAMI.**

3. Operational costs

22. Paragraphs 238 to 265 of the report of the Secretary-General provide a summary of the estimates of operational costs by category of expenditure, including the appropriation and estimated expenditure for 2016 and the projected requirements for 2017 (see table 3).

Table 3
United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq: operational costs
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January to 31 December 2016				1 January to 31 December 2017			
	Appropriation	*Estimated expenditure*	*Variance*	*Appropriation*	*Total requirements*	*Non-recurrent requirements*	*Variance (2017-2016)*	*Net requirements for 2017*
Category of expenditure	*(1)*	*(2)*	*(3)=(1)-(2)*	*(4)=(1)*	*(5)*	*(6)*	*(7)=(5)-(4)*	*(8)=(5)-(6)*
Operational costs								
Consultants	227.6	243.7	(16.1)	227.6	230.3	–	2.7	246.4
Official travel	1 718.0	1 457.4	260.6	1 718.0	1 469.7	–	(248.3)	1 209.1
Facilities and infrastructure	10 288.3	7 709.1	2 579.2	10 288.3	8 963.4	–	(1 324.9)	6 384.2
Ground transportation	1 047.3	1 128.6	(81.3)	1 047.3	966.9	–	(80.4)	1 048.2
Air transportation	6 309.7	7 405.7	(1 096.0)	6 309.7	5 971.0	–	(338.7)	7 067.0
Communications	5 448.4	5 433.9	14.5	5 448.4	5 133.1	–	(315.3)	5 118.6
Information technology	1 977.5	1 908.0	69.5	1 977.5	1 920.5	–	(57.0)	1 851.0
Medical	502.2	384.0	118.2	502.2	508.8	–	6.6	390.6
Other supplies, services and equipment	3 702.5	3 781.6	(79.1)	3 702.5	3 004.6	–	(697.9)	3 083.7
Total	**31 221.5**	**29 452.0**	**1 769.5**	**31 221.5**	**28 168.3**	**–**	**(3 053.2)**	**26 398.8**

Facilities and infrastructure

23. The requirements under facilities and infrastructure for 2017, in the amount of $8.96 million, reflect a reduction of $1.32 million compared with the appropriation of $10.28 million for 2016. The estimated requirements for 2017 include an amount of $1.17 million for security services and personnel, for 22 guards for Kuwait and 16 guards for Erbil and for explosive-detection dogs at four locations. The Advisory Committee notes that the Mission's requirements for explosive-detection dogs have increased from approximately $480,000 in 2016 to $719,249 in 2017 and was informed, upon enquiry, that the costs for 2016 had been underestimated and that the estimated costs for 2017 were based on actual established contract costs.

Air transportation

24. The requirements under air transportation for 2017 amount to $5.97 million, representing a decrease of $338,700 from the appropriation of $6.3 million for 2016, owing mainly to a lower total of flight hours and lower rates for fuel, offset in part by higher guaranteed fleet costs and a higher average cost per flight hour. The Advisory Committee recalls its recommendation that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to commission the Office of Internal Oversight Services to include an operational audit of UNAMI air operations in the course of its audit programme for 2016 (see A/70/7/Add.15, para. 23) and was informed, upon enquiry, that the audit would be scheduled to take place in November 2016.

25. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the Secretary-General's proposals under operational costs for UNAMI.**

UNAMI Office in Kuwait and Kuwait Joint Support Office

26. Information on the cost-sharing arrangements and collaboration in support areas with respect to the Kuwait Joint Support Office financed under the budget for UNAMI is provided in paragraphs 23 to 25 and 223 to 228 of the report of the Secretary-General. The resource requirements for the component of the Kuwait Joint Support Office financed under the budget for UNAMA are contained in the budget estimates for that mission (see A/71/365/Add.4, paras. 160-171). The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that of the 72 positions proposed for 2017 located within the Kuwait Joint Support Office, 39 would be funded by UNAMA and 33 by UNAMI, with a total of 7 positions to be dedicated to payroll processing (see also A/71/365/Add.4, table 12). Upon request, the Committee was provided with a consolidated table showing, for UNAMI and UNAMA, the proposed staffing levels for the Kuwait Joint Support Office for 2017 and the approved staffing levels for 2016 (see A/71/595/Add.4, annex). With regard to the provision of transactional support in the area of finance, the Secretary-General indicates that the Department of Field Support, under an interim arrangement, is processing payroll from the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, and the Kuwait Joint Support Office in order to address the operational needs of the Umoja cluster V roll-out (see A/71/365, paras. 99-102). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that there was therefore a requirement to increase the staffing in support of the payroll functions located at the Kuwait Joint Support Office to a total of 18 staff through the redeployment of positions from field missions.

27. **The Advisory Committee continues to note the lack of clarity with regard to the structures, functions and capacity of the UNAMI Office in Kuwait and the Kuwait Joint Support Office, and continues to question the ongoing validity of maintaining separate structures in Kuwait with distinct reporting lines and accountabilities to UNAMI (see also A/71/595/Add.4, paras. 20-26). The Advisory Committee provides comments and recommendations on the Kuwait Joint Support Office and other structures in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/71/595).**

IV. Recommendation

28. **Subject to its comments and recommendations above, as well as the comments and recommendations contained in its main report (A/71/595), the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposal for the resource requirements for UNAMI for 2017.**

United Nations A/71/595/Add.6

General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 December 2016

Original: English

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 134
Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Thematic cluster I: special and personal envoys and special advisers of the Secretary-General

Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen

Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (thematic cluster I: Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen and Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi) (A/71/365/Add.6). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 8 December 2016.

[1] The Secretary-General provides the explanation for the separate addendum in his main report on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/71/365, para. 18).

16-20648 (E) 131216

Please recycle

2. The main report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365) provides an overview of the proposed resource requirements for 2017 for 31 special political missions and related cross-cutting issues. The first five addenda to the main report cover the specific requirements for thematic clusters I to III and the two largest missions, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) (A/71/365/Add.1-5). The Advisory Committee's comments and recommendations of a cross-cutting nature pertaining to all special political missions, including the Committee's comments on the Kuwait Joint Support Office, are contained in the main report of the Committee (A/71/595), and the budget proposals for 9 of the 11 missions grouped under thematic cluster I relating to the special and personal envoys and special advisers of the Secretary-General, excluding the two missions covered in the present report, are covered in its related report (A/71/595/Add.1).

3. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly approved a biennial provision of $1,124.4 million net under section 3 Political affairs, of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for 2016-2017 for special political missions (resolution 70/249 A). A summary of the provision for the biennium 2016-2017 is provided in annex I to the main report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365). The biennial provision excludes the proposed resource requirements pertaining to the two missions under consideration in the present report.

II. Resource requirements

A. Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen

Background

4. Since the beginning of the uprising in Yemen in early 2011, the Secretary-General has used his good offices to promote peace and stability through dialogue and negotiations. The Advisory Committee recalls that the Office of the Special Envoy was established in 2012. In its resolution 2216 (2015) the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to intensify his good offices role in order to enable the resumption of a peaceful, inclusive, orderly and Yemeni-led transition process. Following continuing hostilities, the President of the Security Council, in a statement of 25 April 2016 called on all Yemeni parties to develop a road map for, inter alia, the implementation of interim security measures, the restoration of state institutions and the resumption of political dialogue (S/PRST/2016/5). Pursuant to a related request from the Council asking the Secretary-General to present a plan outlining how the Office of the Special Envoy could support the next phase of its work with the parties, the Secretary-General set out a proposal to strengthen the Office. The Council took note of the proposal, in which it was indicated that the Office would lead United Nations assistance in: the peace talks; the expanded facilitation and provision of technical advice to the Yemeni parties; and the implementation of the initial stages of agreements (A/71/365/Add.6, paras. 1-11).

5. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that security conditions in Yemen are expected to remain very challenging for United Nations staff, such that the Office and most of its staff will be based outside of Yemen with periodic travel to the country as and when required and as security and operational conditions permit.

The Secretary-General has expressed his intention to move the Office of the Special Envoy from New York to Amman, from where it would serve as an initial hub for the provision of support to Yemeni parties and for operations in Yemen. The presence of the Office in Sana'a would remain limited initially, but would increase over time as security and operational conditions permit (A/71/365/Add.6, para. 25).

6. In order to fulfil the new responsibilities and tasks of the Office, the report indicates that there will be a need for additional staff with expertise in political mediation and facilitation, electoral affairs, ceasefire, disengagement, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and other security sector issues, with a related increase in the existing mission support and safety and security capacities (A/71/365/Add.6, para. 29). The Special Envoy will travel to Yemen and to the region on a regular basis in order to maintain close contact with all stakeholders (ibid., para. 30).

7. The activities of the Office have been financed through an appropriation totalling $6,730,100 for 2016. The Advisory Committee recalls that in July 2016 its concurrence was sought for the Secretary-General to enter into commitments not exceeding $2,965,800 to meet the above-mentioned additional requirements. In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 3 October 2016, the Committee expressed certain reservations about the level of the request, including on the patterns of expenditure observed at that time, proposed staffing levels and arrangements for the provision of mission support. The Committee therefore authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments not exceeding $1,186,320 (or 40 per cent of the requested amount). For 2016, the overall level of approved funding for the Office amounted to $7,916,400. The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that as at 30 November 2016, expenditures against this commitment authority totalled $302,200 and that overall expenditures against the appropriation and the commitment authority amounted to $6,955,100, or 87.9 per cent of the approved level of resources. The report of the Secretary-General indicates that appropriation for the expenditures against the commitment authority will be sought in the context of the overall requirements for special political missions for the biennium 2016-2017 (A/71/365/Add.6, para. 34).

Resource requirements for 2017 for the Office of the Special Envoy

8. The resources proposed for the Office of the Special Envoy for 2017 amount to $15,487,300 (net), reflecting an increase of $8,757,200 compared with the initial appropriation for 2016 (see table 1 below). The net increase amounts to $7,571,000 when taking into consideration the additional commitment authority and the estimated expenditures thereon. Significant increases are estimated for costs relating to international staff ($4,608,200), facilities and infrastructure ($2,154,600) and ground transportation ($1,140,900) (see table 2 below).

Table 1
Financial resources

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January–31 December 2016				Requirements for 1 January–31 December 2017			
Category	Appropriation	Estimated expenditure	Variance	Appropriation 2016	Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	Variance (2017–2016)	Net requirements for 2017[a]
	(1)	(2)	(3)=(1)–(2)	(4)=(1)	(5)	(6)	(7)=(5)–(4)	(8)=(5)–(3)
Civilian personnel costs	3 804.8	4 480.4	(675.6)	3 804.8	8 912.9		5 108.1	9 588.5
Operational costs	2 925.3	3 436.0	(510.7)	2 925.3	6 574.4	1 382.0	3 649.1	7 085.1
Total	**6 730.1**	**7 916.4**	**(1 186.3)**	**6 730.1**	**15 487.3**	**1 382.0**	**8 757.2**	**16 673.6**

[a] Net requirements after taking into account the estimated underexpenditure or overexpenditure for 2016.

Table 2
Summary of financial resources by major category of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January–31 December 2016				Requirements for 1 January–31 December 2017			
Category	Appropriation	Estimated expenditure	Variance	Appropriation 2016	Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	Variance (2017–2016)	Net requirements for 2017[a]
	(1)	(2)	(3)=(1)–(2)	(4)=(1)	(5)	(6)	(7)=(5)–(4)	(8)=(5)–(3)
I. Civilian personnel								
1. International staff	3 560.6	4 184.0	(623.4)	3 560.6	8 168.8	–	4 608.2	8 792.2
2. National staff	244.2	296.4	(52.2)	244.2	744.1	–	499.9	796.3
Total, category I	**3 804.8**	**4 480.4**	**(675.6)**	**3 804.8**	**8 912.9**	**–**	**5 108.1**	**9 588.5**
II. Operational costs								
1. Official travel	1 135.0	1 246.5	(111.5)	1 135.0	1 059.8	–	(75.2)	1 171.3
2. Facilities and infrastructure	659.8	761.2	(101.4)	659.8	2 814.4	344.8	2 154.6	2 915.8
3. Ground transportation	53.8	185.6	(131.8)	53.8	1 194.7	828.4	1 140.9	1 326.5
4. Air transportation	492.8	658.8	(166.0)	492.8	192.8	–	(300.0)	358.8
5. Communications	260.7	260.7		260.7	260.7	44.0		260.7
6. Information technology	169.3	169.3		169.3	375.9	164.8	206.6	375.9
7. Medical					40.2	–	40.2	40.2
8. Other supplies, services and equipment	153.9	153.9		153.9	635.9	–	482.0	635.9
Total, category II	**2 925.3**	**3 436.0**	**(510.7)**	**2 925.3**	**6 574.4**	**1 382.0**	**3 649.1**	**7 085.1**
Total (net of staff assessment)	**6 730.1**	**7 916.4**	**(1 186.3)**	**6 730.1**	**15 487.3**	**1 382.0**	**8 757.2**	**16 673.6**

[a] Net requirements after taking into account the estimated underexpenditure or overexpenditure for 2016.

Staffing requirements for the Office of the Special Envoy

9. Table 3 below presents a breakdown of the positions approved for 2016 and those proposed for 2017.

Table 3
Positions

	Professional and higher categories									*General Service and related categories*			*National staff*			
	USG	*ASG*	*D-2*	*D-1*	*P-5*	*P-4*	*P-3*	*P-2*	*Subtotal*	*Field Security Service*	*General Service*	*Total international*	*National Professional Officer*	*Local level*	*United Nations Volunteers*	*Total*
Approved 2016	1	–	1	–	4	5	3	–	**14**	13	1	**28**	2	9	–	**39**
Proposed 2017	1	1	–	4	8	18	14	–	**46**	27	2	**75**	8	30	–	**113**
Change	–	**1**	**(1)**	**4**	**4**	**13**	**11**	–	**32**	**14**	**1**	**47**	**6**	**21**	–	**74**

10. The total proposed staffing complement for the Office of the Special Envoy for 2017 includes a total of 113 positions, reflecting an increase of 74 new positions,[1] or nearly twice the approved staffing level for 2016, with 49 positions based in Amman; 57 positions based in Sana'a; 2 positions based in Kuwait; and 5 positions based in New York. The establishment of new substantive sections is also proposed, including Office of the Chief of Staff; Office of the Deputy Head of Mission; Security Sector Section; and Public Information Section. The proposed staffing changes are summarized as follows:

(a) Thirty-nine new substantive positions, including:

(i) Three D-1 positions (2 based in Amman and 1 based in Sana'a);

(ii) Four P-5 positions (3 based in Amman and 1 based in Sana'a);

(iii) Seven P-4 positions (5 based in Amman and 2 based in Sana'a);

(iv) Six P-3 positions (3 in Amman and 3 based in Sana'a);

(v) Three Field Service positions based in Amman;

(vi) Five National Professional Officers based in Sana'a;

(vii) Eleven Local level positions (6 based in Amman and 5 based in Sana'a);

(b) Seven new security-related positions, including:

(i) Five positions (1 P-4, 1 P-3, 2 Field Service and 1 Local level) based in Sana'a;

(ii) Two positions (1 Field Service and 1 Local level) based in Amman;

(c) Twenty-five new mission support-related positions, including:

(i) One D-1 position based in Amman;

[1] Includes the 24 positions funded in 2016 under a commitment authority approved by the Advisory Committee (see para. 7 above).

(ii) Four P-4 positions based in Amman;

(iii) Three P-3 positions (2 based in Amman and 1 based in Sana'a);

(iv) Eight Field Service positions (5 based in Amman and 3 based in Sana'a);

(v) One National Professional Officer based in Amman;

(vi) Eight Local level positions (4 based in Amman, 2 based in Sana'a and 2 based in Kuwait);

(d) Three new backstopping-related positions based in New York (1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level));

(e) Proposed redeployment of four substantive positions from New York to Amman (1 Under-Secretary-General, 1 P-5, 1 P-4 and 1 P-3) and three substantive positions from Sana'a to Amman, including two Professional positions (1 P-5 and 1 P-4) and one Field Service position to mission support;

(f) Proposed reclassification and redeployment of the existing D-2 position, Director of the Office of Political Support in Sana'a, to the level of Assistant Secretary-General as Deputy Head of Mission to be based in Amman (A/71/365/Add.6).

Comments and recommendations on staffing requirements

General comments

11. The Secretary-General indicates that the proposed staffing changes reflect the decision to move the headquarters of the Office of the Special Envoy from New York to Amman (A/71/365/Add.6, para. 27), including the redeployment of the Special Envoy, to be in closer proximity to the mission area, the Government of Yemen and other stakeholders in the region. In this regard, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that as of November 2016, 5 of the Office staff were located in Amman and 23 were located in Sana'a, with a projected deployment of 8 staff to Amman and 29 to Sana'a by the end of 2016. The Committee was also informed that the move of the Office of the Special Envoy from New York to Amman, including the move of the Special Envoy, is expected to be completed by 31 December 2016.

12. According to the Secretary-General, in terms of the formalities required with the host country, a status-of-mission agreement was submitted to the Government of Jordan through its Permanent Mission in New York on 26 July 2016 and its signature is pending with the relevant authority. **The Advisory Committee welcomes the proposed relocation of the Special Envoy to Amman, which is in line with recommendations made by the Committee in the context of other special political missions, and trusts that all efforts will be taken to conclude the related status-of-mission agreement.**

13. Concerning the recruitment status of the 24 positions funded from the commitment authority authorized by the Advisory Committee, the Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that, as of 31 October 2016, 11 of those positions had either been filled or that selected candidates were completing on-boarding procedures. Selection processes with respect to four positions was in process while the remaining 9 of the 24 positions were either still vacant or being advertised. In this

connection, the Committee was also provided with information indicating that a 17 per cent vacancy rate has been applied to the continuing international positions based on the projected average vacancy rate in 2016.

14. The Advisory Committee recognizes that the Office of the Special Envoy faces operational and security challenges that have an impact on the pace of recruitment. In addition, in the absence of an agreed status-of-mission agreement with the Government of Jordan, the envisaged deployment of staff to Amman in the numbers intended may be neither prudent nor realistic. The Committee also considers that certain positions proposed, for example the proposed new position of Senior Electoral Affairs Officer (P-5) to be located in Sana'a, may not be required in the immediate future. **Under the circumstances and taking into account the significant increase in the proposed staffing level of the mission (see para. 10 above), the Advisory Committee trusts that the Office will fill the proposed positions only when the functions of the positions can be realistically carried out and operationally supported.**

15. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes that the proposal reflects vacancy factors of 50 per cent for new Professional-level positions and 15 per cent for new Field Service, General Service, National Professional Officer and Local level positions in estimating 2017 staffing resource requirements. **Taking into account prevailing recruitment timelines for staff positions in the Office of the Special Envoy and the pending status of the status-of-forces agreement with the host country, the Advisory Committee recommends that a vacancy factor of 60 per cent be applied for all new Professional-level positions to be established in 2017. Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly.**

Specific staffing proposals: substantive components

16. As regards the staffing proposals to increase the substantive capacity of the Office and, in particular, the proposal for the new Political Affairs Section to include 18 positions, of which 7 would be located in Amman and the remaining 11 in Sana'a, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the staff based in Sana'a would be responsible for maintaining regular contact with Yemeni political parties, movements and civil society organizations, while the staff based in Amman would be responsible for maintaining regular contact with interlocutors based outside of Yemen. **The Advisory Committee considers that the matter of the location of the Office's political capacity should be kept under close review and adjusted depending on the political and security developments on the ground.**

17. The report of the Secretary-General also includes a proposal to establish a new Security Sector Section responsible for supporting the De-escalation and Coordination Committee, which was established as a result of an agreement reached by the Yemeni parties. The total proposed staffing for the new section for 2017 includes 4 positions based in Amman and 11 positions in Sana'a, which includes the establishment of 5 new Liaison Officer positions (1 P-4, 2 P-3 and 2 National Professional Officer positions). Based on information made available, the Advisory Committee observes that all these new positions are proposed for the same basic purpose: to provide technical advice to the Yemeni parties on ceasefire arrangements, negotiated withdrawals, handover of heavy weapons and other

security arrangements as agreed by the parties. **The Advisory Committee is not fully convinced by the justification provided for the number of Liaison Officer positions proposed for the Security Sector Section and therefore recommends against the establishment of one of the proposed new P-3 Liaison Officer positions. Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly.**

18. The proposed establishment of a new Office of the Deputy Head of Mission to be located in Amman would consist of six positions for 2017 (1 ASG, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 1 Field Service and 1 Local level). The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the proposed reclassification and redeployment of the existing Director (D-2) position to the Assistant Secretary-General level is required due to the increased complexity of the military and political situation in Yemen and in light of the greater management and leadership capacity required. **The Advisory Committee does not object to the establishment of the new Office of the Deputy Head of Mission. However, the Committee is not convinced that the entire proposed staffing complement is required for the Office of the Special Envoy at this time. In this regard, the Committee considers that the proposed establishment of the new position of Administrative Assistant (Field Service) to support the Deputy Head of Mission is not adequately justified and recommends against the establishment of this position. Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly.**

19. The Advisory Committee also notes that the Office would retain two existing substantive positions (1 P-4 and 1 General Service (Other Level)) in New York to support the Office of the Special Envoy by engaging with the Security Council, Member States and other stakeholders in New York (A/71/365/Add.1, para. 38). With just one professional position remaining at Headquarters, the Committee is of the view that the continuation of the General Service position for the provision of administrative assistance would be excessive. **The Advisory Committee considers that any administrative support requirements for the remaining capacity of the Office of the Special Envoy at Headquarters should be provided by existing capacity within the Department of Political Affairs. The Committee therefore recommends the abolishment of the General Service (Other Level) position currently located in New York. Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly.**

Specific staffing proposals: support component

20. The report of the Secretary-General indicates that the support component for the Office of the Special Envoy will be based on the principles of a light, flexible multifunctional footprint, integrated mission support delivery with the United Nations country team inside Yemen and the continued reliance on the Kuwait Joint Support Office to provide support for transactional human resources, travel and finance (A/71/365/Add.6, para. 42). Mission support staffing proposals include the establishment of 25 new positions and the inward redeployment of one position (see para. 10 above), increasing the mission support-related staffing complement from 10 positions approved for 2016 to 36 proposed positions in 2017 (ibid., para. 41).

21. Specifically, the proposal includes the establishment of eight new Field Service positions (5 based in Amman and 3 based in Sana'a). These include the establishment of one Property Management Assistant and one Claims Assistant, both

to be located in Amman within the Property Management/Central Warehousing Unit. **The Advisory Committee is not convinced that the overall proposed staffing level in Amman (49 positions) justifies the establishment of this level of capacity to handle these functions, given the small amount of property in place at that location at this early stage of operations. Therefore, the Committee recommends against the establishment of one of the two proposed Field Service positions. Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly.** Similarly, the proposal envisages the establishment of the Office of the Chief of Mission Support, with a proposed staffing level of eight positions, including six in Amman and two positions in Sana'a. The proposal also includes an inward redeployment of an existing Field Service position from the Office of Political Support in Sana'a to the Office of Chief of Mission Support in Amman. **The Advisory Committee does not see the merit in this proposal, particularly in view of the expressed requirement for the Office to strengthen its substantive capacities, and recommends against the proposed redeployment. If the Office decides that the position is no longer required, it should be proposed for abolishment in the next budget proposal.**

22. In addition, the proposal includes the establishment of two local level positions to be based in Kuwait within the Kuwait Joint Support Office, one within the proposed new Finance and Budget Section and another within the proposed new Human Resources Section. The report indicates that this is part of the Office's efforts to achieve a small footprint for administrative services. The Advisory Committee notes that in addition to these new positions, the Human Resources Section would be staffed with three other new positions (1 P-4, 1 Field Service and 1 Local level) based in Amman. The newly created Finance and Budget Section would have two other new positions, one (P-4) in Amman and one (National Professional Officer) in Sana'a. **In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls the comments and observations it has made in recent years and reiterates its view that an independent verification and review of the full costs and benefits, both qualitative and quantitative, of the Support Office would be useful (see A/69/628, para. 56; A/70/7/Add.10, para. 58; and A/71/595/Add.1, para. 23). In view of the foregoing, the Committee recommends against approval of the proposed establishment of two positions (Local level) in the Kuwait Joint Support Office. Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly.** The Committee provides its comments and recommendations regarding the Kuwait Joint Support Office and other staffing structures in Kuwait in its main report on estimates in respect of special political missions and good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/71/595).

23. An additional three new backstopping-related positions, based in New York, are also proposed, including one Human Resources Officer (P-4), one Acquisition Planning and Logistics Officer (P-3), both to be located in the Department of Field Support, and one Programme Budget Assistant (General Service (Other level)) to be located in the Department of Management. **While recognizing that the establishment or strengthening of field-based special political missions imposes an additional workload on those offices at Headquarters required to support them, the Advisory Committee considers that the case for the proposed level of backstopping was not made sufficiently clear in the current proposal.**

Therefore, the Committee supports the establishment of the positions for Acquisition and Logistics Officer (P-3) and Programme Budget Assistant (General Service (Other level)), however, given that capacity for human resources functions is also proposed for the Office in Amman (see para. 22 above), the Committee recommends against the establishment of the Human Resources Officer (P-4) position at Headquarters. Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly.

24. Overall, in each of the mission components (substantive; security; and support), the Advisory Committee notes a relatively small number of local positions as a proportion of the total proposed staffing level of 113 positions (7 National Professional Officer and 26 Local level positions). As a matter of general principle, the Committee encourages use of local capacity to the greatest extent possible at mission locations. **In the case of the Office of the Special Envoy, the Advisory Committee is of the view that greater use could be made of local capacities. The Committee is of the view that a review should be carried out to determine which of the functions located in Amman or Sana'a could best be performed by locally recruited staff and looks forward to the outcome of this analysis being reflected in the staffing proposals of the Office of the Special Envoy for 2018** (see also A/71/595 for the Committee's general observations relating to the nationalization of positions at special political missions).

25. **Subject to its comments and recommendations in paragraphs above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the Secretary-General's staffing proposals for the Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen.**

Comments and recommendations on operational costs

26. The proposed resources for operational costs for the Office of the Special Envoy amount to $6,574,400, reflecting an increase of $3,649,100 compared with the appropriation for 2016 (see table 2 above). The main increases between the proposed requirements for 2017 and the approved resources are related to higher requirements under facilities and infrastructure ($2,154,600) and ground transportation ($1,140,900). The Advisory Committee was informed that increased requirements under facilities and infrastructure included costs for: rental of premises; alteration and renovation services; acquisition of prefabricated facilities; acquisition of office furniture and equipment for the new staff based in Amman and Sana'a; and maintenance services. Under ground transportation, the increase is attributable to: the proposed acquisition of four armoured vehicles for use in Sana'a and nine soft-skin vehicles; the rental of vehicles during surge visits; and increases in insurance, repairs and vehicle operating costs.

27. Resources amounting to $1,059,800 are proposed to provide for the official travel of the Special Envoy and his staff for consultations with regional actors and Member States and for training related requirements, reflecting a small decrease of $75,200 compared with the amount approved for this purpose in 2016. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with a breakdown of actual trips undertaken in 2016, which show that some 28 trips were taken from New York to the region and elsewhere to conduct political consultations. In terms of the Office's compliance with the 16-day advance ticket purchase rule, the Committee notes zero

compliance for the more than 40 trips taken by Office staff during 2016. **The Advisory Committee expects that official travel costs will decline significantly in 2017 since almost all of the Office's staff will be located in the region by that time. The Committee also stresses the need for the Office to comply with the 16-day advance ticket purchase rule to the greatest extent possible and for increased uses of alternative means of communication. The Committee therefore recommends a 5 per cent reduction in the proposed resource requirements for official travel.**

28. **Subject to the its comments and recommendations in the paragraphs above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for operational costs.**

B. Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi

Background

29. In its resolution 2248 (2015), the Security Council welcomed the decision of the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Adviser on Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi to work with the Government of Burundi and other concerned stakeholders in support of an inclusive Burundian dialogue and peaceful resolution of the conflict and of international efforts to build and sustain peace. Subsequently, in its resolution 2279 (2016), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General, through the good offices of his Special Adviser, to support the inter-Burundian dialogue and, in this regard, to coordinate and work with the East African Community-led mediator and his facilitator, as well as the high-level delegation from the African Union, and to provide technical and substantive support to the mediation. The Council subsequently passed resolution 2303 (2016), authorizing the deployment of a United Nations police component under the authority of the Special Adviser with a mandate to monitor the security situation and support the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in monitoring human rights violations and abuses. In the same resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to swiftly implement the strengthening of the Office of the Special Adviser, by substantially increasing the number of political officers in Burundi in order to: (a) engage with all stakeholders to the crisis; (b) provide substantive support to the inter-Burundian dialogue; and (c) work with all Burundian parties to develop confidence-building measures to improve the human rights and security situation (A/71/365/Add.6, paras. 46-58).

30. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/248 B, approved an appropriation of $7,763,700 to cover the resource requirements of the Office for 2016, including the establishment of 33 positions. The Committee was informed that expenditures for the Office against this appropriation are estimated at $7,548,700 by the end of 2016. Upon enquiry, the Committee was provided with an organizational chart indicating that the Special Adviser and his immediate office are currently located in New York (5 positions) while all other substantive units (12 positions), a Mission Support Unit (10 positions) and a Staff Security and Safety Unit (4 positions) are located in Burundi. In addition, a Mediation Support Team (comprising 2 positions) is currently based in Nairobi.

31. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that the Special Adviser's team deployed to Burundi in January 2016. The report also indicates that the major cost drivers related to the ongoing deployment include logistics arrangements, more frequent travel within Burundi, the region and internationally, as required, as well as other staff and operational costs to meet the requirements of the mandate of the Office as the Burundi political dialogue progresses. Costs are also associated with plans to move to a new compound for the Office of the Special Adviser in Bujumbura (A/71/365/Add.6, para. 72). It is also indicated that administrative support for the staff of the Office of the Special Adviser deployed in Burundi is provided by the Regional Support Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, which provides supply chain, cashier, finance and procurement services, with a small office support team deployed in Bujumbura to support the day-to-day administrative and logistical needs of the team (ibid., paras. 62 and 73).

Resource requirements for the Office of the Special Adviser for 2017

32. The resources proposed for the Office of the Special Adviser for 2017 amount to $11,927,100, reflecting an increase of $4,163,400 (or 53 per cent) compared with the initial appropriation for 2016 (see table 4 below). More than half of this increase is attributable to increases in the estimated costs relating to increased staffing levels ($2,352,300), with smaller increases in official travel ($384,900), facilities and infrastructure ($366,500) and information technology ($346,700) (see table 5 below).

Table 4
Financial resources

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January to 31 December 2016				*Requirements for 1 January–31 December 2017*			
Category	*Appropriation*	*Estimated expenditure*	*Variance*	*Appropriation 2016*	*Total non-recurrent requirements*	*Total non-recurrent requirements*	*Variance (2017–2016)*	*Net requirements for 2017[a]*
	(1)	(2)	(3)=(1)–(2)	(4)=(1)	(5)	(6)	(7)=(5)–(4)	(8)=(5)–(3)
Civilian personnel costs	3 202.8	3 289.8	187.0)	3 202.8	5 555.1		2 352.3	5 642.1
Operational costs	4 560.9	4 258.9	302.0	4 560.9	6 372.0	426.8	1 811.1	6 070.0
Total	**7 763.7**	**7 548.7**	**215.0**	**7 763.7**	**11 927.1**	**426.8**	**4 163.4**	**11 712.1**

[a] Net requirements after taking into account the estimated underexpenditure or overexpenditure for 2016.

Table 5

Summary of financial resources by major category of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January–31 December 2016				Requirements for 1 January–31 December 2017			
Category	Appropriation	Estimated expenditure	Variance	Apportionment for 2016	Total requirements	Variance (2017 vs. 2016)	Net requirements for 2017
	(1)	(2)	(3) = (1) – (2)	(4)	(5)	(6) = (5) – (4)	(7) = (5) – (3)
I. Civilian personnel							
1. International staff	3 089.4	3 126.3	(36.9)	3 089.4	5 274.8	2 185.4	5 311.7
2. National staff	113.4	163.5	(50.1)	113.4	280.3	166.9	330.4
Total, category I	**3 202.8**	**3 289.8**	**(87.0)**	**3 202.8**	**5 555.1**	**2 352.3**	**5 642.1**
II. Operational costs							
1. Consultants	116.3	116.3		116.3	370.6	254.3	370.6
2. Official travel	1 412.1	1 260.2	151.9	1 412.1	1 797.0	384.9	1 645.1
3. Facilities and infrastructure	1 682.6	1 721.8	(39.2)	1 682.6	2 049.1	366.9	2 088.3
4. Ground transportation	180.4	40.8	139.6	180.4	364.5	184.0	224.5
5. Communications	509.7	311.6	198.1	509.7	589.2	79.5	391.1
6. Information technology	203.7	411.5	(207.8)	203.7	550.4	346.7	758.2
7. Medical	204.0	218.1	(14.1)	204.0	247.2	43.2	261.3
8. Other supplies, services and equipment	252.1	178.6	73.5	252.1	404.2	152.1	330.7
Total, category II	**4 560.9**	**4 258.9**	**302.0**	**4 560.9**	**6 372.0**	**1 811.1**	**6 070.0**
Total (net of staff assessment)	**7 763.7**	**7 548.7**	**215.0**	**7 763.7**	**11 927.1**	**4 163.4**	**11 712.1**

[a] Net requirements after taking into account the estimated underexpenditure or overexpenditure for 2016.

Staffing requirements

33. Table 6 below presents a breakdown of the positions approved for 2016 and those proposed for 2017. The proposal includes 20 new positions (2 P-5, 7 P-4, 2 P-3, 5 Field Service, 1 General Service (Other level), 1 National Professional Officer and 2 Local level).

Table 6
Positions

	Professional and higher categories								*General Service and related categories*			*National staff*			
	USG	*ASG*	*D-2*	*D-1*	*P-5*	*P-4*	*P-3*	*P-2*	*Subtotal*	*Field Security Service*	*General Service (Other levels)*	*Subtotal international*	*National Professional Officer*	*Local level*	*United Nations Volunteers*	*Total*
Approved 2016	1		1	2	6	6	2		**18**	7	1	**26**	2	5		**33**
Proposed 2017	1		1	2	8	13	4		**29**	12	2	**43**	3	7		**53**
Change					**2**	**7**	**2**		**11**	**5**	**1**	**17**	**1**	**2**		**20**

34. The proposed staffing complement for the Office of the Special Adviser for 2017 would total 53 positions (1 Under-Secretary-General, 1 D-2, 2 D-1, 8 P-5, 13 P-4, 4 P-3, 12 Field Service, 2 General Service, 3 National Officer, 7 Local level), reflecting the proposed increase of 20 new positions and a continuation of 33 existing positions from 2016. Proposed staffing changes are summarized as follows:

(a) Fifteen new substantive positions, comprising:

(i) Three new positions (1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)), for the Office of the Special Adviser in New York, for planning for the deployment of a United Nations police contribution and for analysis of information;

(ii) One new Political Affairs Officer backstopping position (P-3) to be located within Department of Political Affairs at Headquarters;

(iii) Five new positions (1 P-5 and 4 P-4) to strengthen the Dialogue Support Unit in Burundi, including at three regional offices;

(iv) Five new positions (1 P-5, 2 P-4 and 2 Field Service) for the Security and Rule of Law Unit in Burundi;

(v) One new National Professional Officer position proposed to undertake protocol functions in Burundi.

(b) Three new mission support positions (1 Field Service and 2 Local level) based in Burundi;

(c) Two new Security Officer positions (2 Field Service) based in Burundi;

(d) Proposed redeployment of two Political Affairs Officers (1 P-5 and 1 P-4) in the existing Mediation Support Team, from Nairobi to Burundi (A/71/365/Add.6, paras. 79-85).

Comments and recommendations on staffing requirements

General comments

35. The report of the Secretary-General indicates that the political and security situation in Burundi remains precarious (A/71/365/Add.6, para. 46). In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes that the proposal for the Office does not

foresee the relocation of the Special Adviser and his immediate office from New York closer to the mission area. In terms of the formalities required for the presence of the Office of the Special Adviser in Burundi, the Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that a status-of-mission agreement had been prepared and submitted to the Permanent Mission of Burundi in New York in June 2016, but that no reply had been received thus far. The Committee was further informed that the Office has been experiencing significant delays with regard to the receipt of the necessary visas to allow for the deployment of its civilian staff to Burundi. Furthermore, the Committee recalls that, in July 2016, the Security Council, by its resolution 2303 (2016) authorized the deployment of a United Nations police component, with a ceiling of 228 individual police officers (ibid., para. 55). The Secretary-General's budget proposal for 2017 contains no resource requirements relating to that component.

36. As with the case of the Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen (see para. 14 above) and the Office of the Special Envoy for Syria (see A/71/595/Add.1, para. 26), the Advisory Committee recognizes that the Office faces operational and security challenges that have an impact on the pace of recruitment of staff to newly approved positions. In this connection, the Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that a total of 29 positions were currently encumbered (from the total authorized staffing level of 33 positions). **Under the circumstances and taking into account the significant increase in the proposed staffing level of the mission (see para. 34 above), the Advisory Committee trusts that the Office will fill the proposed positions only when the functions of the positions can be realistically carried out and operationally supported.**

37. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes that the proposal reflects vacancy factors of 50 per cent for new Professional-level positions and 35 per cent for new Field and General Service, National Professional Officer and Local level positions in estimating staffing resource requirements. **Taking into account the aforementioned factors, the Advisory Committee recommends that a vacancy factor of 70 per cent be applied for all new Professional-level positions to be established in 2017. Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly.**

Staffing proposals

38. As regards the staffing proposals to increase the substantive capacity of the Office and, in particular, the proposal to increase its capacity in New York, the Secretary-General proposes the creation of three positions for Political Affairs Officers and one Team Assistant position (1 P-4, 2 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)), three of which are to be located in the New York Office of the Special Adviser. It is indicated that this strengthening would assist in tasks associated with planning for the deployment of a United Nations police contribution, analysis of information and liaison with United Nations offices and entities at Headquarters. In addition, one of the new P-3 positions is proposed to be located within the Department of Political Affairs to provide political backstopping capacity for the mission.

39. The Advisory Committee notes that there are currently five positions established for the New York Office of the Special Adviser (1 USG, 2 P-5, 1 P-4,

1 General Service (Other level). **Information provided to the Advisory Committee does not, in its view, adequately explain and justify why the functions to be carried out under the proposed new positions cannot be performed from within existing capacities. The Committee recommends against the establishment of the four additional positions proposed for supporting the Office in New York. Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly.**

40. The proposal of the Secretary-General includes a proposed strengthening of the Dialogue Support Unit by the establishment of five new positions (1 P-5 and 4 P-4) to be located in Burundi. The Unit is currently staffed with five positions (1 D-1, 2 P-5, 1 P-4 and 1 P-3). It is intended that three of the four new P-4 positions would be deployed as heads of local offices outside Bujumbura and would engage with local-level stakeholders to ensure that grass-roots initiatives are reflected in the inter-Burundian dialogue. The Secretary-General justifies the establishment of the new Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) in order to provide coordination of the work of the political officers deployed at the local offices. **It is not, however, clear to the Advisory Committee why such functions could not be performed by the existing senior staff of the Unit. The Committee recommends against the establishment of a P-5 Senior Political Affairs Officer position in the Dialogue Support Unit. Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly.**

41. In addition, the proposed establishment of a new position for Protocol Officer (National Professional Officer), to be located as part of the Head of Office's immediate staff in Burundi to perform protocol functions and liaison with national counterparts, is, in the view of the Advisory Committee, not convincing in light of prevailing operational realities, such as the ongoing location of the Special Adviser and other senior staff outside the mission area. **The Advisory Committee recommends against the establishment of the position for Protocol Officer (National Professional Officer) at this time. Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly.**

42. The report of the Secretary-General also includes a proposal to increase the staff in the Security and Rule of Law Unit in Burundi by establishing five new positions (1 P-5, 2 P-4 and 2 Field Service) in order to liaise with stakeholders and advise on the development, implementation and evaluation of rule of law activities in line with international norms and standards. The Unit is currently staffed with a Principal Security Sector Reform Officer (D-1) and a Rule of Law Officer (P-4). With respect to the two new proposed Field Service positions, the Advisory Committee was informed that the intention would be that they would perform functions as Team Assistants and provide administrative support to both the Dialogue Support Unit and the Security and Rule of Law Unit. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the workload of the two Units does not yet justify the establishment of two Team Assistant positions. Therefore the Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of one of the Field Service positions for the Security and Rule of Law Unit. Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly.**

43. **Subject to its comments and recommendations in paragraphs above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the Secretary-General's staffing proposals for the Office of the Special Adviser on Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi.**

Comments and recommendations on operational costs

44. The proposed resources for operational costs for the Office of the Special Adviser amount to $6,372,000, reflecting an increase of $1,811,100 compared with the appropriation for 2016 (see table 5 above). The main increases between the proposed requirements for 2017 and the approved resources are mainly related to consultants ($254,000), official travel ($384,900) and information technology ($346,700).

45. Resources amounting to $1,797,000 are proposed to provide for the travel of the Special Adviser and his staff to visit regional stakeholders and to ensure their participation in all rounds of formal dialogue between the parties, including visits to Headquarters, as required. The amount also includes travel for training purposes amounting to $178,300. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with a breakdown of proposed training activities and related travel costs courses for specific courses. As regards training intended for staff in the substantive units, most of the courses proposed would take place in Geneva or in New York, and are specifically designed to enhance the skills of international staff in areas such as leadership, management, peace processes and rule of law. In the case of the proposed training for mission support personnel, the courses would generally take place in Entebbe, Uganda, on technical mission-support related topics.

46. **While acknowledging the benefits of initial training requirements and subsequent skills enhancement, the Advisory Committee is of the view that the proposal to train mostly international staff to acquire skills for the positions they have been recently recruited to perform suggests a deficiency in the Office's staff selection processes. Therefore, the Committee recommends a 20 per cent reduction, or $36,000, in the resources proposed to cover travel for training purposes.**

47. The Advisory Committee also requested a breakdown of the travel undertaken in 2016 and the planned travel for 2017, but was not provided with a satisfactory response. **In view of the magnitude of the resource requirements proposed for official travel, the Advisory Committee reiterates the views it has repeatedly expressed concerning the judicious use of travel resources, in particular its view that the primary consideration in authorizing official travel should be whether direct face-to-face contact is necessary for mandate implementation. The Committee also reiterates the importance of advance ticket booking and use of videoconferencing capabilities, to the greatest extent possible, as a means to limit the travel costs (see also A/70/7, paras. 104 and 108).**

48. With regard to consultants, the Secretary-General is proposing resources amounting to $370,600 to provide for services of six external consultants in 2017, representing a threefold increase in the resources authorized for consultants in 2016. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the consultants would provide (a) specialized knowledge, expertise and substantive advice on constitutional and legal matters related to mediation and dialogue methodologies; (b) expertise on governance models, separation of powers and minority issues; (c) advice on technical areas relating to rule of law in Burundi, including the judiciary, police and corrections; and (d) assistance on the security sector in Burundi, including areas of accountability, integrity and human rights.

49. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the expertise or capacity sought for the majority of the services requested should already exist within the Secretariat, including, for example, within the Mediation Support Unit in the Department of Political Affairs and the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. In addition, the Office either already has staff capacity in these particular fields or in the related positions proposed for establishment. Therefore the Committee finds the proposal for consultants to be excessive and recommends a 50 per cent reduction, or $180,000, in the resources requested for this purpose.**

50. **Subject to its comments and recommendations in the paragraphs above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for operational costs.**

III. Recommendation

51. The Secretary-General's budgetary proposals for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, and the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi for 2017, are set out in paragraph 88 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365/Add.6). The requirements for these missions were presented separately so as to reflect the latest developments on the ground (A/71/365, para. 18) as well as the most recent related decisions of the Security Council relating to the two missions.

52. **Subject to the recommendations contained in the paragraphs above, as well as recommendations contained in its main report (A/71/595), the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposal for the resource requirements for 2017 for these two special political missions under thematic cluster I.**

53. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly:**

(a) **Approve the budgets for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen and the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi, for 2017 amounting to $25,100,300, net of staff assessment;**

(b) **To appropriate, under the procedures provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to resolution 41/213, an additional amount of $ 26,071,600 (net of staff assessment) under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, after taking into account the estimated overexpenditure in 2016 amounting to $971,300;**

(c) **To appropriate an amount of $1,834,800, under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.**

United Nations A/71/595/Add.7

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 December 2016

Original: English

Seventy-first session
Item 134
Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Thematic cluster III: United Nations offices, peacebuilding support offices, integrated offices and commissions

United Nations Mission in Colombia

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365/Add.7) on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, which contains the proposed resource requirements for 2017 for the United Nations Mission in Colombia. During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 7 December 2016.

2. The main report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365) provides an overview of the proposed resource requirements for 2017 for 31 special political missions and related cross-cutting issues. In the first five addenda to the main report, the specific requirements are covered for thematic clusters I to III and the two largest missions, namely, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) (A/71/365/Add.1-5). The budget proposals of the Secretary-General for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen and the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Conflict Prevention, including on Burundi (both under cluster I), and

16-21505 (E) 131216

Please recycle

the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism (under cluster II) are presented in separate addenda. The comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee that are of a cross-cutting nature and pertain to all special political missions, including the Committee's comments on the Kuwait Joint Support Office, are contained in the main report of the Committee (A/71/595). The comments and recommendations of the Committee regarding the budget proposals for thematic clusters I to III, UNAMA and UNAMI are presented in the related reports (A/71/595/Add.1-8).

3. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly approved a biennial provision of $1,124,400,000 net under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 for special political missions (see resolution 70/249 A). A summary of the provision for the biennium is provided in annex I to the main report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365). This biennial provision excludes the proposed resource requirements pertaining to the United Nations Mission in Colombia (the Mission).

II. Mandate and resource requirements for 2017

A. Background

4. By its resolution 2261 (2016), the Security Council established a political mission of unarmed international observers to be the international component and coordinator of the tripartite mechanism (the Mechanism) that would monitor and verify the agreement on a definitive bilateral ceasefire and cessation of hostilities between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo) (FARC-EP). The Council also mandated the mission to monitor and verify the laying down of arms. The mandate of 12 months established for the mission commenced following the signing of the peace agreement between the Government of Colombia and FARC-EP on 26 September 2016 (A/71/365/Add.7, para. 1).

5. It is indicated in the report that following the results of the plebiscite, held on 2 October 2016, whereby the peace agreement between the Government of Colombia and FARC-EP was rejected by the electorate, the parties signed a protocol for the bilateral and definitive ceasefire and cessation of hostilities, on 13 October 2016. In a letter dated 31 October 2016 (S/2016/923), the President of the Security Council authorized the Mission to commence monitoring and observation activities in accordance with the request of the parties (A/71/365/Add.7, paras. 8, 9 and 12).

6. In the report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365/Add.7 and Corr.1), it is stated that the Government of Colombia and the Mission would share the costs of activating and operating the Mechanism, exclusive of Government-provided security costs, in proportion to the number of national and international personnel in the Mechanism; and that current planning indicated that the Mission's usage of facilities and infrastructure would account for approximately 50 per cent of the total requirement (para. 16). It was also stated in the report that in its resolution 2307 (2016), the Security Council had authorized the Mission to share equally with the Government of Colombia the support required for the preparation and facilities

management of the transitional zones and transitional points for normalization (para. 16). **The Advisory Committee trusts that the next report of the Secretary-General will include more detailed information on the overall costs of the Mission, as well as the cost-sharing arrangements as related to its requirements.**

7. In the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General, it is indicated that the basic tasks of the Mission would encompass: (a) organizing the operations of the Mechanism, taking into account the coordination of tasks, threat analysis and logistical requirements; (b) monitoring the local sites and visiting FARC-EP camps; (c) monitoring the security zones and visiting redeployed army units; and (d) visiting neighbouring population centres in order to interact with the local population and authorities (para. 10). It is also indicated that under the protocol adopted on 13 October 2016, monitoring and verification would be carried out primarily in the environs of between 50 and 60 temporary pre-grouping positions, rather than the 27 transitional zones and points for normalization identified in the peace agreement, entailing periodic visits by the Mechanism, at the local headquarters level, to the temporary pre-grouping positions (para. 11). It is stated in the report that the current proposal does not include provisions for the monitoring and verification of the laying down of arms by FARC-EP, to begin following the entry into force of the revised peace agreement, which was signed in Bogota on 24 November 2016 and, at the time of the issuance of the Secretary-General's report, was awaiting ratification by the Congress of Colombia (para. 2).[1]

8. According to the Secretary-General, the Mission and United Nations Headquarters are continuing to engage closely with the members of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and other interested Member States on the nomination and deployment of observers (A/71/365/Add.7, para. 13); and the Mission continues to maintain very close contact with the United Nations country team (para. 14). It is also stated in the report that the Mission would engage regularly with national, regional and local authorities, actors and the wider public (para. 15).

9. It is stated in the report that since the deployment of an advance team to Bogota in February 2016 and the subsequent opening of the United Nations Mission in Colombia, the Mission has established its national headquarters, and six out of eight regional headquarters (A/71/365/Add.7, para. 17). It is also stated that reconnaissance visits have been undertaken, in a tripartite manner, to 24 of the 27 proposed local zones and points identified in the peace agreements and related protocols, as well as finalization and confirmation visits to the temporary team sites for the Mechanism (para. 18).

10. In paragraph 22 of the report, the phased approach adopted by the Mission and the Mechanism is described. In phase 1, those temporary pre-grouping points that are within daily commuting distance from one of the eight established regional headquarters for the Mission would be visited by tripartite observation teams; in phase 2, temporary team sites for the Mechanism would be progressively established in each of the 27 transitional zones and points for normalization; and in

[1] The peace agreement has since been ratified by the Congress of Colombia (on 30 November 2016).

phase 3, the construction and operation of fixed team sites for the Mechanism would be undertaken in all 27 zones and points.

B. Resource requirements

11. The proposed resource requirements for 2017 for the Mission amount to $64,167,300, net of staff assessment. The proposed resources would provide for 400 military observers ($11,138,700); 280 civilian personnel ($22,028,300); and operational costs ($31,000,300). It is stated in the report that the Mission would require 400 observers, with an additional 50 observers needed when the laying down of arms began (A/71/365/Add.7, paras. 24 and 34 and table 2).

Table 1
Financial resources
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January-31 December 2016			Requirements for 1 January-31 December 2017				
	Appropriations	Estimated expenditure[a]	Variance	Appropriation 2016	Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	Variance (2017-2016)	Net requirements for 2017[b]
Category	(1)	(2)	(3)=(1)-(2)	(4)=(1)	(5)	(6)	(7)=(5)-(4)	(8)=(5)-(3)
Military observers	–	2 275.4	(2 275.4)	–	11 138.7	–	11 138.7	13 414.1
Civilian personnel costs	–	3 212.2	(3 212.2)	–	22 028.3	–	22 028.3	25 240.5
Operational costs	–	9 139.6	(9 139.6)	–	31 000.3	129.3	31 000.3	40 139.9
Total	**–**	**14 627.2**	**(14 627.2)**	**–**	**64 167.3**	**129.3**	**64 167.3**	**78 794.5**

[a] The amount of estimated expenditures corresponds to the amount of commitments approved to date, and the additional commitment authority, submitted for the approval of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.
[b] Net requirements after taking into account the estimated underexpenditure or overexpenditure for 2016.

12. With respect to funding for the 2016 period, it is indicated in paragraph 33 of the report that there was no appropriation for 2016, and that requirements are being met through commitment authorities, for which appropriation is being sought, in the context of the present report, in the amount of $14,627,200, comprising commitment authorities of $9,490,200 approved to date, and an amount of $5,137,000 submitted for the approval of the Advisory Committee on 21 November 2016. In this regard, the Committee recalls that the approved amount of $9,490,200 comprises $8,500,000 as approved by the Committee and $990,200 as approved by the Secretary-General under the terms of General Assembly resolution 70/250. With respect to the pending request for commitment authority in the amount of $5,137,000, the Committee approved commitments in the amount of $4,880,000. The total amount of commitments authorized for the 2016 period would therefore amount to $14,370,200 (see para. 29 (b) below).

I. Civilian personnel

13. The Secretary-General proposes the establishment of 280 positions (1 USG, 1 ASG, 1 D-2, 4 D-1, 20 P-5, 28 P-4, 36 P-3, 26 Field Service, 1 General Service (Other level), 47 National Professional Officers, 55 Local level and 60 United Nations Volunteers), comprising 184 for the substantive component, 38 for the security component and 58 for the mission support component (see table 2). The civilian personnel component would also include seven backstopping positions to be based at United Nations Headquarters (A/71/365/Add.7, para. 35).

Table 2
Positions

	Professional and higher categories								*General service and related categories*		*Total international*	*National staff*		*United Nations Volunteers*		*Grand total*
	USG	*ASG*	*D-2*	*D-1*	*P-5*	*P-4*	*P-3*	*Total*	*Field Service*	*General Service*		*National Professional Officer*	*Local level*	*International*	*National*	
Mission	1	1	1	4	19	25	34	**85**	26	–	**111**	47	55	57	3	273
Backstopping	–	–	–	–	1	3	2	**6**	–	1	**7**	–	–	–	–	7
Total	**1**	**1**	**1**	**4**	**20**	**28**	**36**	**91**	**26**	**1**	**118**	**47**	**55**	**57**	**3**	**280**

Backstopping positions

14. The Advisory Committee was provided with information showing that the proposed backstopping positions comprise two Political Affairs Officer (1 P-5 and 1 P-4) positions and 1 Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level)) position in the Department of Political Affairs; 1 Military Planning Officer (P-4) position in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations; and 1 Planning and Programme Officer (P-3) position, 1 Human Resources Officer (P-4) position and 1 Logistics Officer (P-3) position in the Department of Field Support.

15. With respect to the three proposed positions in the Department of Political Affairs, the information provided to the Committee indicates that the incumbents would provide overall backstopping for the Mission, provide strategic, political and operational guidance and undertake day-to-day monitoring and troubleshooting; ensure information-sharing and consultation between the Mission and United Nations Headquarters; communicate regularly with the Member States that are contributing personnel to the Mission; lead the inter-agency task force on Colombia; and coordinate and manage projects and activities. **Taking into account the overall tasks of those occupying the three positions, the functions that could be performed by the proposed Political Affairs Officer (P-5) and the existing capacity within the Department of Political Affairs, the Advisory Committee recommends against approval of the proposed Political Affairs Officer (P-4) position. Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly. The Committee recommends approval of the proposed Political Affairs Officer (P-5) position and the Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level)) position.**

16. With regard to the three proposed backstopping positions in the Department of Field Service, the Advisory Committee was provided with information indicating that the three incumbents would be part of the Operational Support Team in the Department of Field Support which also provides support to the special political missions in Burundi, Libya, Syria and Yemen. According to the information provided, the proposed Planning and Programme Officer (P-3) would lead Department of Field Support engagement with respect to all strategic and critical operational support issues related to these special political missions; the proposed Human Resources Officer (P-4) would support the critical surge phase of the Mission by providing operational support, policy and guidance, oversight, workforce planning and strategic advisory services; and the proposed Logistics Officer (P-3) would draft and provide input to Colombia-related planning documents, including the mission support concept, the mission support plan and acquisition projections.

17. The Advisory Committee notes that those occupying the proposed backstopping positions in the Department of Field Support would be part of a team providing support to the special political missions in Burundi, Libya, Syria and Yemen as well. In this context, the Committee recalls that in its report on the estimates in respect of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, it recommended against approval of the proposed Logistics Officer (P-3) position in the Department of Field Support (A/71/595/Add.3, para. 44). The Committee also recalls that in its report on the estimates in respect of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, it recommended against approval of the proposed Human Resources Officer (P-4) and Planning Officer (P-3) positions in the Department of Field Support (A/71/595/Add.1, paras. 21 and 22). The Committee further recalls that in its report on the estimates in respect of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, it recommended against approval of the proposed Human Resources Officer (P-4) position, while recommending approval of the Acquisition Planning and Logistics Officer (P-3) position in the Department of Field Support (A/71/595/Add.6, para. 23). In its main report (A/71/595, para. 51), the Committee makes comments and recommendations on the fragmented presentation of information on backstopping support to special political missions at Headquarters.

18. **Having considered the proposed functions of the three backstopping positions in the Department of Field Support, the Advisory Committee notes that the incumbents of the proposed Human Resources Officer (P-4) and Logistics Officer (P-3) positions would support the initial planning and recruitment phase of the Mission, while the Planning and Programme Officer (P-3) would provide strategic support to the special political missions covered by the Operational Support Team. Taking into account the proposed functions under the three positions, and the Committee's previous recommendations on backstopping positions for the special political missions in Libya, Syria and Yemen, the Committee recommends against approval of the proposed Planning and Programme Officer (P-3) (position). Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly. The Committee recommends approval of the proposed Human Resources Officer (P-4) and Logistics Officer (P-3) positions.**

Substantive support and coordination

19. From information provided to it, the Advisory Committee notes that three Administrative Assistants are proposed within the substantive support and coordination component to provide administrative and logistical support to the Office of the Principal Coordination Officer, including through arranging meetings, requesting travel, arranging schedules, filing and records management. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the Administrative Assistants would provide administrative support for the senior Mission staff member or team concerned. According to the organizational chart of the substantive support and coordination component, the Office of the Principal Coordination Officer would comprise the Principal Coordination Officer (D-1), 1 Special Assistant (National Professional Officer) and the 3 Administrative Assistants (Local level). **The Advisory Committee is not convinced that three Administrative Assistants are required to support the Office of the Principal Coordination Officer. The Committee therefore recommends against approval of two of the proposed Administrative Assistant (Local level) positions. Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly.**

20. **Subject to its comments and recommendations as set out above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposals regarding civilian personnel.**

2. Operational costs

21. The proposed resource requirements for operational costs amount to $31,000,300, comprising costs for consultants ($115,100), official travel ($1,608,400), facilities and infrastructure ($12,637,900), ground transportation ($2,862,000), air transportation ($5,169,400), communications ($6,138,900), information technology ($2,041,800), medical ($222,000) and other supplies, services and equipment ($204,800) (A/71/365/Add.7 and Corr.1, para. 34).

Consultants

22. The Advisory Committee was provided with information indicating that the proposed resources of $115,100 under consultants would provide for five consultants with expertise in Afro-Colombian issues; conflict-related indigenous issues; the difficulties that might be faced by the fighters; engagement with female fighters; and psychosocial transregional engagement; as well as two additional training consultants to provide an analysis of the history and nature of the conflict for use in induction briefings of new staff and observers. The Committee notes from information provided to it that the incumbent of a proposed Programme Officer (Ethnic and Indigenous Communities) position (P-4) in the Office of the Chief of Staff would analyse and monitor the needs and requirements of the indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities. Upon enquiry, the Committee was provided with a breakdown of the proposed resources under consultants, including the amounts of $26,850 for the consultants on Afro-Colombian issues and $7,670 for the two training consultants on the history of the conflict and background on FARC-EP.

23. **The Advisory Committee considers that some of the proposed consultancies could be covered by utilizing in-house capacity. The Committee**

therefore recommends a 10 per cent reduction in the amount of $11,500 in the proposed resources for consultants.

Official travel

24. From information provided to it, the Advisory Committee notes that the proposed resources under official travel, in the amount of $1,608,400, would provide for official travel of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and his staff for consultations and dialogue-focused meetings in various locations, including political consultations in Havana, New York, and Norway. Upon enquiry, the Committee was provided with a breakdown of the cost of proposed trips to be taken, including two familiarity trips by one Medical Officer (National Professional Officer) and one Engineering Officer (National Professional Officer) amounting to $9,373, and a trip for information management training to be taken by the substantive component amounting to $9,952. The Committee also notes that the breakdown does not provide information on the number of travellers per trip, together with relevant justifications for each trip. **The Advisory Committee is not convinced that all of the proposed trips under official travel are justified, and therefore recommends a 10 per cent reduction, in the amount of $160,800.**

Facilities and infrastructure

25. With respect to the proposed resources under facilities and infrastructure ($12,637,900) to provide for the Mission's 50 per cent share of the costs, information provided to the Advisory Committee indicates that those resources would provide for rental of premises ($2,047,600), rental of office equipment ($86,800), utilities and waste disposal services ($329,100), maintenance services ($5,592,700), security services ($636,200), architectural and demolition services ($3,889,200), stationery and office supplies ($43,800) and sanitation and cleaning materials ($12,500). Upon enquiry regarding the environmental impact of construction projects at the Mission, the Committee was informed that the Mechanism's temporary local headquarters have provisions for wastewater treatment and disposal, while with regard to the more permanent headquarters, planning is ongoing for the assessment of water resources, ground protection for generators, separation of wastewater and its treatment, and solid waste disposal. **The Advisory Committee trusts that information in this regard will be provided in the next report of the Secretary-General.**

Ground transportation

26. Information provided to the Advisory Committee indicates that resources amounting to $2,862,000 are proposed under ground transportation to provide for the Mission's 50 per cent share of the Mechanism costs related to the rental of armoured vehicles. **Taking into account the amount proposed for the rental of armoured vehicles, the Advisory Committee considers that the Secretary-General should undertake a comparison of the cost of the purchase of such vehicles with the cost of rental, to determine the more cost-effective option.**

27. **In this context, the Advisory Committee recalls that it had recommended in its previous report on special political missions that the Secretary-General develop a policy with respect to vehicle holdings by all special political missions**

at all duty stations, taking into consideration the mandate, size and operational requirements of individual missions, and indicate the applicability of such a policy to each special political mission (A/70/7/Add.10, para. 25).

28. **Subject to its comments and recommendations as set out above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for operational costs.**

III. Conclusion

29. The proposed actions requested of the General Assembly by the Secretary-General in connection with the United Nations Mission in Colombia are set out in paragraph 37 of his report (A/71/365/Add.7). **Subject to its comments and recommendations above, as well as the comments and recommendations contained in its main report on special political missions (A/71/595), the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposal for the resource requirements for 2017 for the United Nations Mission in Colombia. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly:**

(a) **Approve the budget for the United Nations Mission in Colombia for 2017 amounting to $63,591,900, net of staff assessment;**

(b) **Appropriate, under the procedures provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to resolution 41/213, an additional amount of $77,962,100, net of staff assessment, under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, after taking into account the approved commitment authorities for 2016, amounting to $14,370,200;**

(c) **Appropriate an amount of $3,044,300 under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.**